

Annual Report 2013



CONTENTS

Cooperatives & Food Gardens Programme	Pages 1- 10
Health and Empowerment Programme	Pages 11- 18
Labour Rights Programme	Pages 19- 29
Land and Housing Programme	Pages 30- 47
Northern Cape Programme	Pages 48- 52

COOPERATIVES & FOOD GARDENS PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

While South Africa remains able to produce enough food to adequately meet local food consumption needs, according to Food Bank South Africa, more than 20% of the population is food insecure. This means that approximately 11 million South Africans do not know where their next meal will come from. Like many other parts of the world, the people who are hardest hit are women and children. Ironically, this hunger is rampant among farm workers, who produce the country's food.

1. Training & Capacity-building

One-day Reflection Workshop

In February, the Programme facilitated a one-day reflection workshop with food garden participants from the Rawsonville and Ceres food gardens. The objective of the workshop was to reflect on what had and had not worked in 2012, and what changes were necessary to increase effectiveness – by both WFP and farmwomen. The most common issues which were identified by the women were practical challenges, such as problems with the soil, which prevented some women from having a quality harvest: the soil was depleted as a result of all the pesticides and chemicals that were used in former farming practices. Both groups agreed that the soil can be rehabilitated by applying agro-ecological methods, and planting on compost.

Rawsonville identified a need for more training on seed capturing, while both groups reported that marketing / access to markets and record-keeping was still a challenge. This led to the scheduling of seed capturing and financial management workshops during the year. Information on planting schedules and the seasonality for traditional seeds were also disseminated to the groups on project site visits during the course of the year.

Mushroom Production

Members of the Stellenbosch Cooperative participated in a week-long training workshop in March on mushroom cultivation. The first two days were spent on the theory of mushroom cultivation, followed by three-day practical training. Mushroom production takes place in an enclosed container, protected from the elements and erratic weather. Thus, it is regarded as an effective method for crop diversification and resilience against climate change.

Technical agricultural training for Food Gardens

The programme facilitated a four-day workshop on agro ecology, including seed capturing. The refresher training resulted out of the January reflection workshop where women raised their challenges and the need for more training.

Thirty-five women from Ceres, Stellenbosch and Rawsonville participated in the workshop. The workshop day focussed on the concept of agro-ecology and planting schedules, including

ways to plant, while mitigating the effects of climate change. Seed capturing and saving were also covered. A goal is for the women to start their own seed banks in communities, and thus contribute to the sustainability of the gardens.

Through drawings and pictures, women depicted how they view the current agricultural landscape and their perspectives for alternatives. The alternatives which they identified included: land and water provision for women for food production; support with environmentally sustainable farming practices; equal and fair labour practices; etc.

Discussions also started around the values and principles of cooperatives, as the women have indicated they would like to start cooperatives in the future. Existing cooperative members demonstrated how to form a cooperative through a role-play. The women also discussed why cooperatives are a viable farming model in the current economic context. They all agreed that a cooperative is a farming model that can ensure that women's rights are recognised and ensured.

Training for Transformation (TfT)

In collaboration with the Grail, WFP facilitated the opportunity for farmwomen leaders, from all WFP's programmes, including the Cooperatives & Food Gardens, to participate in Training for Transformation (TfT) training from 22-26 April. The women were trained on the Paulo Freirean methodology, which is based on an adult-based approach and enables women to mobilise their communities through dialogues and discussions to identify their own needs, develop strategies, and undertake relevant campaigns and actions.

Vegetable Production

Since the Stellenbosch food gardens only started in August, a vegetable production training workshop was facilitated for participants in September. The women were trained on basic agro-ecology, specifically the relevant terms, concepts and processes related to an agro-ecology approach. Women were taught how to make their own compost, the history of vegetables, companion planting and pest management. They also received training on natural management for pest control, crop diversification, inter-cropping and wind guilds. The women were very receptive of the information they received, although agro-ecology was a new concept. The women were very motivated and enthusiastic to start producing their own vegetables using these methods.

Learning Exchange to Abalimi Mbezekhaya, Khayelitsha

The Stellenbosch Cooperative undertook an exchange visit to an urban-based vegetable project in Khayelitsha township. Abalimi Mbezekhaya is an NGO that provides urban communities with the necessary skills to produce their own food.

The women were part of a four day practical training on agro-ecological vegetable production and worked with the urban women at their project sites to exchange knowledge and best practices in their mother tongue, Xhosa. The women were very motivated after the exchange and immediately put some of their learnings into practice. For example, they started making

and using so-called liquid manure to feed their plants, started making similar beddings and using intercropping.

Northern Cape Learning Exchange

WFP has long learned the value of exchange visits for farmwomen. From 21-22 October, two women from the Ceres food gardens and a staff member went to Northern Cape to facilitate a two-day training workshop on seed capturing for 15 women from the Northern Cape's food gardens. The two Ceres women were co-facilitators and gave practical demonstrations to the women on how to capture and dry seeds from various plant variants. They were also able to explain the importance and value of traditional seeds.

Both the women from the Western and Northern Cape commented on how beneficial the exchange had been. The Northern Cape women were better able to learn from their colleagues from their Western Cape, who were able to speak from practical, lived experience. Meanwhile, the confidence and skills of the Western Cape women were enhanced through their experience of co-facilitation. The opportunity for sharing general vegetable production experiences for both sets of women was invaluable; spaces such as these also provide women with an opportunity to build solidarity with women from other provinces.

Basic Book-keeping & Marketing

In November, the Stellenbosch Cooperative received two-day training on basic book-keeping and introduction to marketing. Practically oriented, the workshop provided women with skills and exercises on making financial and production projections; keeping basic, but accurate, records; and effective marketing of their vegetables and mushrooms. For example, they were given homework on investigating potential markets that are interested in gourmet mushrooms, where they had to promote themselves as mushroom producers. A number of potential buyers were identified through this exercise.

2. Overview of Cooperatives

Ceres Cooperative

The Ceres Cooperative has continued to demonstrate growing leadership and autonomy, despite the challenges it faces, the most significant of which is access to land. While struggling to access land, the women have explored different income-generating strategies, including jewellery-making, and the making and selling of fruit preserves. Meanwhile, with their own food gardens, Cooperative members have also assisted other women in starting their own food gardens. They are also co-facilitators at various WFP workshops. They also engage independently (of WFP staff) with government officials, especially around the issue of access to land.

For example, the group actively sought land through both the Department of Rural Development & Land Reform and by approaching commercial farmers. Finally, the women were granted a piece of land the local municipality in Wolseley, where they will produce both vegetables and mushrooms. They have also been able to get their food health standard certificate and permit for a market stall in Ceres, without the assistance of WFP staff. Since

the establishment of the Ceres cooperative, the women have worked together to realize a common vision, which is to own their own land and ensure sustainable livelihoods.

Stellenbosch Cooperative

The Stellenbosch Cooperative has only been on the Stellenbosch commonage land for a year; they are thus a relatively new group. The women started producing vegetables, but have had several challenges regarding infrastructural support from the municipality and internal conflict. The group consisted of 11 members when they were registered as an official primary cooperative. However, due to the severity of the conflict amongst members, the group finally disbanded, despite mediation and intervention by WFP.

3. Overview of Food Gardens

The main objective of the project is to establish agro-ecological gardens for food production, as well as the education and empowerment of farmwomen, through sharing and transferring knowledge and skills.

Negotiating land access with farmers

Food production needs secure and stable access to resources, especially land and water. Access to land for farmwomen is a constant struggle. Women's access to housing on farms is mediated through male partners or relatives (e.g. father or brother); their tenure is thus less secure than that of men. Nonetheless, with all the food gardens, the women successfully negotiated access to land or permission to grow vegetables with the farmer, as they are all producing their vegetables on small allotments around their houses. In Ceres, some of the food gardens have been using land outside their immediate garden perimeter to produce more food.

Women living in the Spooky Town informal settlement of Rawsonville have limited access to land due to the growing number of influx of evicted farm workers moving into the settlement. The women have thus started planting vegetables in old bath tubs, tyres, etc.

Status of food gardens

In early January, we discovered that the gardens which had been established in 2012, had started "spreading" within the different communities. Women had been inspired by the existing food gardens and started their own food gardens. Where women do not have the wherewithal to start gardens on their own, they have approached WFP for assistance.

During winter 2013, severe and erratic weather was experienced in both Rawsonville and Ceres, which had direct and negative impacts on the gardens in both Rawsonville and Ceres. In August, heavy rains flooded the informal houses of residents of in Spooky Town, Rawsonville. Families took refuge in a nearby church hall for nearly a week. Half of the food garden participants were affected: not only were their homes flooded, their gardens were also washed away. Meanwhile, in Ceres, the food gardens were damaged by severe frosts and even heavy snow. Although they have had to start their gardens from scratch, the women have been drawing strength from other women within WFP's food garden project, and they

have all started planting again. Both the Rawsonville and Ceres food garden members project members have rehabilitated their gardens by planting and capturing traditional seeds. The women in both areas have reported that not only are weather occurrences more extreme (colder, wetter, etc.), they are more erratic and thus difficult to plan for.

Despite the fact that 80% of all the women struggled with weather-related challenges, half of the Ceres women produced beautiful cabbages, peas, herbs, etc. Meanwhile, the heavy rains in Rawsonville, especially in Spooky Town, meant that only 60% of the food gardens in Rawsonville were able to produce a winter harvest.

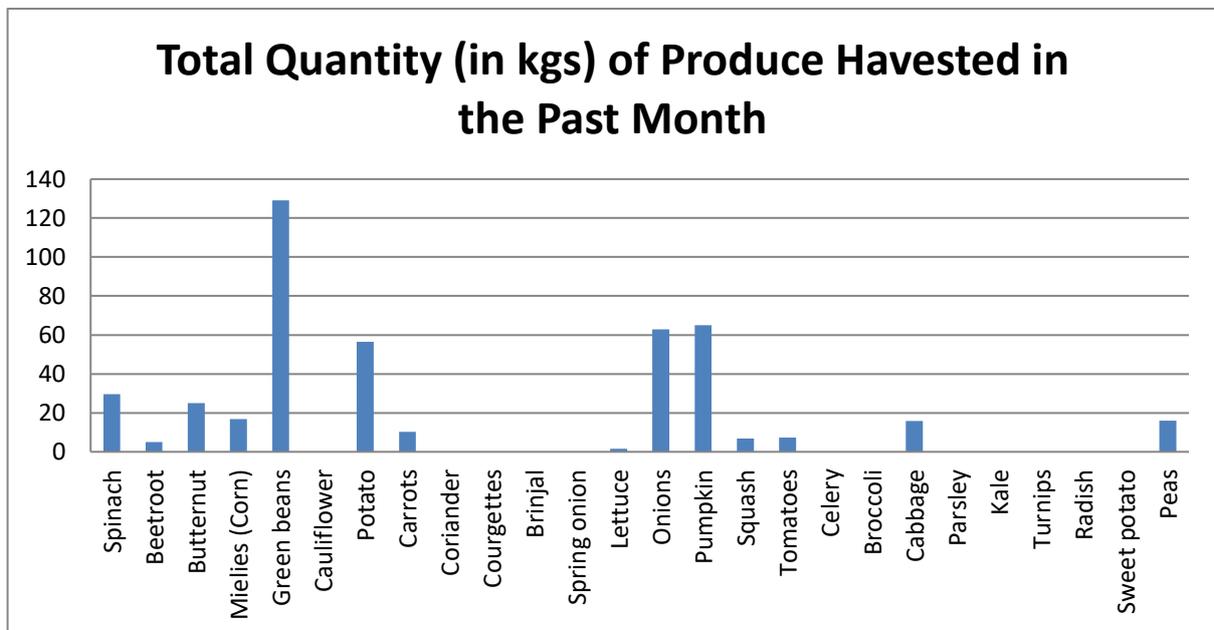
The existing food gardens motivated women from other areas to also start gardens. Thus, in August, farmwomen from Stellenbosch approached WFP to assist them to start food gardens; 10 new gardens were established on farms in the Stellenbosch area. Although Stellenbosch is well-known for its prestigious wine farms, there are farms where women still live in extreme poverty and routinely experience food insecurity. The food gardens will contribute to farmwomen’s household food security.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Despite the weather-related challenges, the gardens have had positive outcomes on food production and food security. The Programme developed a “Food Tracker” to evaluate the production and impact of the gardens on the livelihoods of women and their families.

Vegetable production

All the women were able to produce enough vegetables for household consumption.



Vegetables produced by Ceres & Rawsonville food gardens for July, 2013

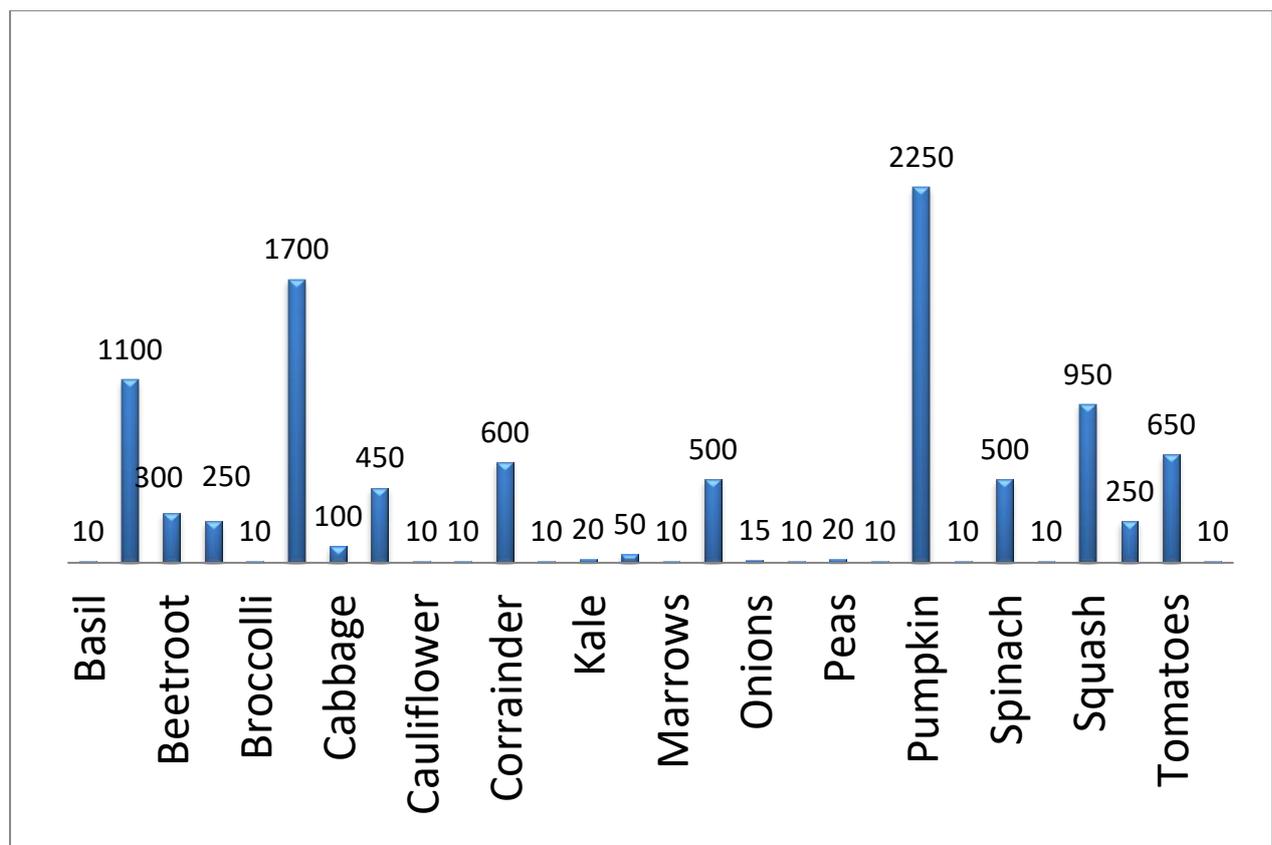
The majority of women (80%) employed agro-ecology principles and explained that the methods helped them to harvest quality vegetables. All the women reported that they are

saving money because they not buying vegetables from the expensive mobile vegetable brokers and shops anymore – constituting an average saving of about R200 per month per household. Moreover, more women are able to consume vegetables more regularly because they are growing their own; previously, many women were often unable to afford vegetables. Sixty per cent of women were able to sell their surplus vegetables and made a profit of between R350 – R520 per month. In addition, they also exchanged and shared vegetables with other women, especially those who do not have gardens.

The Ceres food gardens participants have been such an inspiration that the local primary school asked them to start a garden at the school to serve as an educational tool for the learners.

A number of children of food garden participants have also attended some of the agricultural trainings. The Ceres children have their own patch where they grow their own vegetables and were able to sell their produce in the community and make a profit of R500. The daughter of one of the participants reported that her Biology and Natural Science grades improved because part of the syllabus covered all the information she had acquired by the agro-ecology training with her mother.

Seeds captured



Seeds captured by food garden participants for Dec 2012 – Aug 2013

All the Ceres food gardens succeeded in capturing different seed varieties. The graph shows the amount of seeds (in grams) that the food gardens were able to capture. In Rawsonville, a quarter of the women were able to capture seeds. The women received refresher training on

seed capturing in the second half of the year. The Ceres food gardens participants were co-facilitators (with WFP staff) for the training workshop. They were able to practically demonstrate how to capture and store indigenous seeds. Since seed capturing is an integral part of the food gardens' sustainability, it is an ongoing and major focus of our work with all the food gardens.

Story of Significant Change

The story of Josephine Mabeta, one of the food garden's participants in Rawsonville, Spooky Town, was captured and shared on Oxfam Canada's website:

<http://www.oxfam.ca/our-work/success-stories/josefinas-story-food-security-and-resilience>

4. Mentoring & Support

Project Site Visits

Food garden site visits took place fortnightly. In winter, women faced challenges as a result of the heavy rains, frost and snow in Rawsonville and Ceres. Thus, much of the business of site visits in the latter half of the year related to troubleshooting and technical advice to mitigate the climatic challenges facing women. Site visits also provide support to the Ceres and Rawsonville women who are starting nurseries. The nurseries will ensure seedlings are available to women in the communities at cost price.

5. Networking & Lobbying

The Programme engaged in a range of networking and lobbying activities aimed at building, promoting and supporting the cooperatives.

UN Conference on Right to Food

WFP was invited to participate in a Right to Food conference in Malawi, hosted by the United Nations. WFP did a presentation on women's rights and women's right to food. The space that was created was a learning space for organisations and Human Rights Commissions to share and learn best practices from each other on realising the constitutional right to food, including effective advocacy strategies for organisations and communities.

Consultative Workshop on Climate Change

Oxfam invited WFP and nine other Oxfam partners to participate in a Climate Change workshop in Durban to share experiences and practices of work with communities around resilience to climate change. Some of the common themes that were highlighted were communities' ability to base adaptation to local needs and integration of local knowledge. Many communities already have well-developed coping mechanisms and technologies for climate-related stresses, and sharing this information, together with more theoretical adaptation knowledge, enhanced the capacities of the participating organisations. The workshop will also inform Oxfam's planning around climate change adaptation.

Gender Justice Summit & Women's Rights and Resilience Learning Forum

Oxfam Canada invited WFP to participate in the two events in Ottawa in September. For the Gender Summit, WFP made two presentations on different aspects of women's resilience to climate change in the cooperatives and food gardens. The Summit was attended by more than 100 Canadian and international participants.

The Gender Justice Summit was followed by a Learning Forum for Oxfam partners from East, West and Southern Africa and Latin America, as well as practitioners working on the issues of climate change and resilience. The Learning Forum provided WFP with an opportunity to share its experiences of strengthening farmwomen's resilience in both the cooperatives and food gardens to respond to the challenges of climate change.

Women's Livelihoods Conference

WFP was invited to India by the International Centre for Human Development and the United Nations to do a presentation on Women's Livelihoods in South Africa, based on the organisation's experience. The main aim of the conference was to showcase innovative strategies from organisations across the global South to improve the capabilities of economically vulnerable women's groups. WFP's presentation highlighted both our rights-based work, as well as the economic empowerment work with the cooperatives and food gardens, to ensure sustainable livelihood security for farmwomen.

Emthunzini Community of Practice

Established by Emthunzini Trust to create a space where all their partners share best practices and learn from one another, the sessions proved to be a valuable space. WFP identified the need for data collection and analysis on food consumption and income.

Workshop on Draft National Strategy on Agro-ecology

The programme attended a fourth workshop on the National Strategy on Agro-ecology. The Strategy is in its seventh draft and small farmers are dissatisfied with the way in which government has handled this policy. For example, a policy document normally precedes and informs a strategy, which has not been the case with this Strategy. The current draft is a mixture between policy and interventions, with unclear objectives. Small farmers felt that the document focuses on technical and production issues, without sufficient focus on the social and cultural aspects. There was also a request that the word "*Confidential*" in "*Confidential Discussion Document*" on the cover page be deleted and that the document urgently be made available for public comment. A second formal submission on the 7th Draft was made by all the organisations to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

6. Special Events

Mandela Day

To celebrate Mandela Day in July, more than 50 “friends of WFP” assisted the Stellenbosch Cooperative to clear land, mulch and plant for the winter season. Although it was a cold and wet day, everybody was in high spirits, and contributed to the preparation and planting of 10 large beds of vegetables, including beans, kale, spinach, butternut, pumpkin. Women were able to harvest, consume and sell vegetables from this crop.

World Food Day & International Rural Women’s Day Event

In October, WFP celebrated both World Food Day & International Rural Women’s Day with 140 farmwomen. Given the widespread experience of food insecurity among farmwomen as well as the spike in farm worker evictions, the focus of the day was to highlight the link between evictions and increased household food insecurity (as households lose incomes, secure employment, secure tenure and access to land). When women are evicted from farms, they land up in informal settlements with even less access to land, and less possibility of producing food.

Through women’s testimonies throughout the day, their important contribution to household food production and food security was highlighted. Through group work, women also discussed their constraints to growing food. These included access to inputs, especially as land and water, as well as access to markets. Women participants of the Cooperatives & Food Gardens Programme shared their experiences, highlighting the impact of own food production: some women spoke about the nutritional benefits their households are experiencing, while others reported how they are able to share and sell their surpluses; others have been able to start small home-based businesses (e.g. house shop, selling wood, etc.)

The event ended with a demonstration at the Drakenstein Municipality in Paarl to demand that the Municipality provide “legally” evicted workers with decent, alternative accommodation (as stipulated by ESTA legislation). If they are unable to do so, as many municipalities claim, there should be an immediate moratorium on farm worker evictions. Women’s demands included the specific demand that Florina Fillies and her family be provided with suitable alternative housing as they had been “legally” evicted, but left by the side of the road for two weeks, since the Municipality had not provided alternative housing. After the Municipal Manager finally agreed to engage with the women, the Municipality accepted the Memorandum of Demands, and also undertook to provide the Fillies family with temporary accommodation in Mbekweni; this did happen hours after the demonstration!

Stellenbosch Cooperative hosts Hawthorn Football Club

In December, through out partnership with Oxfam, Stellenbosch Cooperative hosted the Hawthorn Football Club from Australia. The Club spent time working on the land and interacting with members of the Cooperative. As they travelled back from the land, members of the Club said they were inspired by women’s tenacity to provide for their families.

7. Highlights, Challenges & Learnings

Highlights

One of the highlights for the programme is that both cooperatives are officially registered as independent entities. The Ceres Cooperative also received their health food standards certificate and their permit to have a stall at the Ceres market, without the assistance of the organisation. They took their own initiative. This clearly shows the growth of the women and how the training has empowered the women to identify their own needs and work towards achieving their goals and dreams. The women have also grown in terms of taking ownership of their projects and the broader Cooperatives Programme. The Ceres Cooperative are now able to train other women - they have been co-facilitating trainings on seed capturing and seed saving on various platforms, including in the Northern Cape. All the food gardens have been able to produce vegetables which have enhanced household food security, and in most cases, women have also been able to sell and share their surpluses.

Challenges

The most significant challenge was the ongoing and destructive conflict in the Stellenbosch Cooperative, which finally led to its dissolution. Not only was WFP's mediation and intervention ultimately unsuccessful, it was also time-consuming. A second challenge, was the ongoing struggle to access adequate productive land and water, especially for the Ceres Cooperative and Spooky Town food gardens. An emerging third challenge is that of changing weather patterns: Rawsonville was hit with floods, while Ceres experienced black frost and snow.

Learnings

With the dissolution of the Stellenbosch Cooperative, WFP has resolved to facilitate sessions on power, leadership styles, feminist leadership, effective communication, conflict mediation and resolution as part of basic training for all WFP groups in a bid to pre-empt irreconcilable differences among group members. A second learning is the inestimable value of learning exchanges between different groups of women – not only do they provide an opportunity for sharing practical experiences, they also bolster women's self-confidence and build solidarity among women who ordinarily are separated by geographic distances.

HEALTH & EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

1. Training & Capacity Building

Training & capacity-building is aimed at increasing the capacity of the farm-level Health Teams to deliver health information, as well as improving farmwomen's understanding of rights to health and access to healthcare.

Emergency First Aid Response (EFAR)

In response to women's request for practical skills, WFP initiated discussions with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to facilitate training for farmwomen. An initial workshop was held with farmwomen representatives to assess their specific training needs. Women indicated their need for skills which would enable them to attend to basic medical emergencies on their farms (e.g. burns, epileptic seizures, occupational injuries; assaults; etc.) while waiting for medical professionals to arrive.

Thus, a training workshop on Emergency First Aid Response was facilitated for 20 farmwomen in June at the WFP offices. The training was facilitated in an interactive and practical manner, with women consistently given opportunities to practice the different procedures on a special mannequin. The women then had to write a nationally-recognised and accredited exam. Eight of the 20 women passed the examination, while 12 did not pass – 10 passed when they rewrote the exam in July. This demonstrates the high standard of the course and exam.

Two additional training workshops were facilitated by EMS in the second half of the year, leading to a further 20 women passing the examination; thus WHEP now has a total of 40 qualified EFARS. The women also completed an Emergency Childbirth training course in November.

Gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS

Twenty-seven farmwomen participated in this training workshop from 5 – 7 April. The main objective of the workshop was for participants to develop an understanding of, and familiarize themselves with, new developments on GBV and HIV/AIDS.

WHEP staged a short drama on GBV and HIV/AIDS to start the conversation. The women connected and shared their experiences. For some women, the drama was very emotional because it resonated with their own life stories. The rest of the workshop comprised a great deal of group work in which women were able to discuss the concepts and participate fully.

Women's knowledge of their rights increased as was demonstrated by the pre- and post-questionnaire administered at the beginning and end of the weekend workshop. A number of the trained women were able to share their knowledge with neighbours and colleagues on their farms.

Health and Human's Rights

The Right to Health training was facilitated for 44 farmwomen who participated in the training workshop in Wolseley from 7 – 9 June. The aim was to introduce participants to health as a human right, and make practical connections to their daily lives – on their farms and in their communities.

Drawing on the Right to Health Toolkit which was designed and developed by the Learning Network, the training also showed the difference between women's fundamental human needs and their rights. Throughout the workshop, women were able to identify instances when their rights had been violated, but they had not been aware of. By the end of the workshop, women also recognised the importance of working together collectively to bring about changes.

From women's reports from all the areas, it is clear that health rights violations are still widespread across clinics and hospitals in rural areas. Women undertook to launch local campaigns around local issues at their local clinics. In Rawsonville, a group of women approached the staff to demand greater privacy in the waiting room, specifically when staff enquire about the nature of patients' medical conditions in a full waiting room. They cited patients' right to dignity and privacy. The women report that when staff could see that they knew their rights, they listened attentively and agreed to demands. They have reconfigured the rooms so that patients are now asked personal questions only when they are in a private room with the staff member.

Alcohol and Substance Dependence

WFP facilitated a weekend workshop for 46 women on alcohol and substance dependence from 11-13 October.

The workshop addressed aspects of self image, the connection to the historic *tot system*, why and how people cannot stop drinking and the importance of supporting each other.

Women shared their stories in the different groups as well as in the plenary session. A great deal of work was done in groups to create a space for women to connect and feel free to share their stories. What was noticeable from women's stories, was the fact that alcohol abuse was always implicated in the domestic violence that happens over weekends or when people have been paid.

The second part of the workshop focused on alcohol foetal syndrome disorder (FASD), where women were horrified to learn that FASD is a permanent brain disorder. An extension of the discussion on FASD, was a session facilitated by the EFAR team on emergency child birth. The aim was to equip women with skills and knowledge to enable them to deal with emergency childbirth situations on their farms and communities. Women reported how it often arises that there is no medical assistance for a woman having to give birth at home on a farm; often, the babies die simply because there is nobody on the farm who is trained to assist the mother. All the women thus agreed that the introductory training provided them with invaluable practical information and skills, but that there was a need and demand for follow-up training, for other women, too.

After the workshop, a number of women immediately approached pregnant women on their farms who were still consuming alcohol during their pregnancies. They explained the dangers of alcohol consumption to the unborn babies. They were able to explain that the damage would be permanent, and the women should immediately stop drinking. The women were able to report that except for two women, the other seven women all stopped drinking for the duration of their pregnancies.

Chronic Diseases

Thirty-six women participated in the Chronic Diseases workshop at Boontjies Rivier on 23-25 August. The main aim of the workshop was to develop an understanding of the symptoms, causes and management of the most common chronic diseases, especially those experienced by the farm worker community. From the discussions and questions from women, it was clear that diabetes and hypertension are widespread among farm workers, and are often not diagnosed and/or managed and controlled. Since the workshop was facilitated by EMS, all the women's questions were fully answered. It was also clear that the medical services provided at rural clinics are often inadequate to address chronic diseases; for example, women often have to return repeatedly for their repeat prescriptions for chronic blood pressure medication.

Women shared the information with colleagues and neighbours after the training workshop. They later reported that their communities had a great deal of misinformation about the diseases and the medication – e.g. many people did not know that hypertension medication had to be taken everyday, and not only when the person is feeling ill.

Information Sessions

Information sessions were held in Grabouw, Rawsonville, Paarl and Wellington. In response to requests from farmwomen received in 2012, the information sessions focused on so-called chronic diseases. Women had reported that these diseases are increasingly common, and often not properly diagnosed, treated and managed. Following the Information Sessions, women felt they have more knowledge of these diseases and were in a better position to advise other women on their farms.

2. Campaigns

Women's Day

WFP commemorated National Women's Day on 9 August, with a public event attended by more than 300 farmwomen from all the areas where WFP is active. Mary Hames from the Gender Equity Unit of the University of the Western Cape was the keynote speaker. Mary highlighted the role of women in South Africa's struggle for freedom and encouraged women to continue to strive for justice and equality as women still experience discrimination and oppression, especially violence against women.

In groups, women worked on various questions related to the challenges they face in accessing health services in their areas. In all the areas, there was a resounding commonality regarding the inadequacy of rural health services, including availability of medicines, understaffing and long queues, disrespect from healthcare professionals, etc. There was an

undertaking by women to address these challenges in 2014. This will form the basis of advocacy initiatives of WHEP in 2014.

Women were also presented with instructions in simple yoga exercises for stress relief, as well as classes on jewellery-making with beads; they all made an item of beaded jewellery which they took home with them.

As part of both the run-up to and conclusion of the Women's Day event, WHEP's Sharon Messina did radio interviews on the local radio station, Radio KC, a station to which many farm workers listen.

16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Children

As part of WFP's annual 16 Days of Activism campaign, it hosted a World Aids Day event on 1 December in Wolseley for about 260 women from various areas. A representative from the South African Police (SAPS) delivered the keynote address on gender-based violence, and the role of the police in providing women with a service when they report a case of gender-based violence.

A number of farmwomen speakers also shared their personal stories of domestic violence and other kinds of abuse; others shared testimonies of living with HIV or having family and relatives who are living with the virus. Sharing their stories was an empowering experience for these women, and it also served to encourage and motivate other women with similar experiences to speak out.

The Department of Health provided HIV testing, while EMS did tests for diabetes and hypertension. While 109 people went for the various tests, the results of 18 women necessitated referrals to their local health facilities. The Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) did an information session on breast cancer.

Pampering sessions like manicures, manicures, facials, hairstyling and bead-making made up the rest of the day.

3. Networking & Partnerships

The Trauma Centre

Through our long-established relationship with farmwomen, WFP has been aware of the various kinds of trauma that women routinely experience, but for which they usually receive no assistance and intervention.

WFP had an preliminary meeting with the Trauma Centre, Cape Town. The Centre runs a number of trauma counselling clinics in the greater Western Cape; however, most of their clinics are in towns. Although both the Trauma Centre and WFP currently lack funds, both organizations indicated a string interest to work together. The Trauma Centre is willing and interested to work with farmwomen on the range of trauma they experience through 6-8 intensive sessions with the same group of women – this will serve as a pilot process, after which the process could be replicated elsewhere with other groups of women.

University of Stellenbosch

During the course of their daily work with farmwomen, WFP staff experience a great deal of second-hand trauma – e.g. staff experience trauma by dealing with a rape survivor or a family that has been evicted from their home. Staff requested WHEP to assist in identifying appropriate assistance for them - i.e. for debriefing and counselling.

To this end, WHEP (and other staff) embarked on a fortnightly debriefing and counselling process with the Psychology Department of the University of Stellenbosch from August to November. The process will continue in 2014. The Department has also indicated a willingness to work with farmwomen on appropriate group-based processes.

Ilitha Labanthu

WFP participated in an international summit on gender-based violence, convened by Ilitha Labanthu from 26-30 August. The summit brought together many local and international speakers, as well as government officials and local community leaders. The focus of the summit was to share strategies on fighting GBV in our communities and the world. There was an undertaking by organisations to work closer together as all are working on similar issues; the formation of GBV Forums could help in this regard.

South African National Aids Council (SANAC)

WFP attended the Strategic Planning session in Cape Town in September. They brought together various organizations in the women's sector to help with planning for 2014.

Klapmuts Community Forum

WFP started a relationship within the Klapmuts community, in collaboration with the different organisations. This Forum will look at how different organisations can work together on issues affecting the Klapmuts community. The Forum was started at the end of the year and will start operating in 2014.

Department of Agriculture (DoA)

WHEP was invited by the Department of Agriculture to do an information session on GBV and HIV as part of its 16 Days of Activism campaign. The session took place on 2 December in Stellenbosch and was attended by 50 DoA staff members. WHEP started the session with a Training for Transformation (TFT) code on GBV and the discussion that followed the presentation was very interactive and very well received by the audience.

Other Networking Partners:

1. WHEP maintains its relationships with the Learning Network and the People's Health Movement.
2. WHEP has also started a relationship with the South African Police Services (SAPS). This will be maintained in 2014 onwards.
3. Epilepsy-SA undertakes to facilitate sessions with farmwomen on epilepsy.
4. WHEP continues its relationship with the Western Cape Network on Violence Against Women to which it brings a focus on rural women's issues.
5. WFP continues its relationship with the Shukumisa network, which focuses on monitoring how police stations implement the Sexual Offences Act. WHEP collected data on rural police stations in the Western Cape and Northern Cape, which was part of the national data collected and the national report being prepared by the network of women's organisations.
6. Media: Aljazeera-SA collaborated with WHEP when it made a documentary on Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). Both WHEP staff members and two farmwomen from Rawsonville were interviewed for the programme which was broadcast worldwide in June. WHEP also did radio interviews with Valley FM before both Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women & Children to raise awareness of the general significance of the two days, but also WFP's specific events for the two days.

4. Case Work

As the cases below demonstrate, a number of women had the confidence to take legal action in cases of sexual violence and abuse. We therefore saw some progress in women laying charges against abusive partners, which previously they would not have done, because of the shame associated with domestic violence. However, challenges still remain – mainly with respect to women dropping or withdrawing charges. Thus, going forward from 2014, a great deal of our focus will specifically be on educating women on the importance of seeing gender-based violence cases through to their conclusion.

Sexual Harassment

A woman from an Agter-Paarl farm approached the WHEP programme with a sexual harassment case of her mentally-challenged daughter. As an active HT member, she felt confident to lay a charge at the local police station; however, she was not getting any feedback from the police about the progress of the case.

After WHEP's intervention, the police visited her to update her on the case, which was actually due to go to Court. However, when they went to Court, they learned that the perpetrator had moved to another area, and the police were still tracing him. Furthermore, the woman's husband was pressurising her to drop the matter. Despite our advice to the contrary, the woman decided against pursuing the matter, and dropped the charge.

The case highlighted the poor service women receive from the police and courts, and that without the intervention of an NGO, farmwomen's rights are often not respected. Secondly, it also showed the need for our continued education of women to pursue cases of sexual assault, etc.

Rape and murder

A woman was raped and murdered on 1 March. According to friends, family and neighbours, she had had an argument and fight with her partner on the evening. She made numerous phone calls to the local police station, but they never came. She decided to go to the police station herself to get help; on her way there, she was raped and murdered. A passerby discovered her half-naked body in the water under a bridge on the morning of 2 March. The bridge is situated close to the police station. After the arrest of a local man, WHEP followed the case at the Paarl Magistrate's court.

Domestic Violence

A woman in the Rawsonville area approached WHEP to report domestic violence. A meeting was held with her where different options for addressing the issue were explained. According to her, the abuse has been taking place for many years. In fact, she was assaulted during the weekend after she consulted with WHEP! She then decided to lay a charge at the local police station. Her partner was arrested, and was due to appear in court. However, on the day of his court appearance, she decided to withdraw the case.

Again, we see women taking the important first steps – viz. breaking the silence and seeking advice, as well as laying a charge. However, at the last hurdle, she dropped the charge. Despite our frustration at this, we need to acknowledge her important first steps, and work on educating women about persisting with charges.

Domestic Violence

A woman from Stellenbosch approached WHEP with a case of long-term domestic violence. She wanted to take action, but needed advice and guidance. We had a consultation with her where she was guided on her different options (e.g. laying a charge at the local police station or getting a protection order). She decided to go to court where the Magistrate granted her an interim protection order. On the court date, she was granted a permanent protection order. When WHEP followed up with her, she reported that her partner got scared when he received the protection order from the police and initially stopped the abuse. However, after a while, he again started emotionally and physically abusing her. She went to the police with her protection order and her partner was arrested. He was released on a warning, and the woman ended her relationship soon after. She said she realised he would never change.

In this case, the woman had, firstly, laid a charge, secondly, got interim and permanent protection orders, thirdly, reported her partner and had him arrested when he contravened the protection order by abusing her, and finally, she ended her relationship with him, realising that abusive men seldom change their behaviour. Thus, in all respects, this woman behaved in a self-confident and empowered manner.

Domestic Violence

A woman from Agter-Paarl approached WHEP to assist her in a domestic violence case. WHEP assisted her in applying for an interim protection order. The order was signed by the police and her partner and was submitted to the local Magistrate's Court. In August, the protection order was made permanent.

In this case, the woman also took legal action against her abusive partner by getting a protection order against him. She, too, has persisted with the case, and has not dropped the charge.

Thus, from the cases above, we can see that, importantly, women are breaking the silence, getting advice and taking legal action, which needs to be commended. While a few women are still withdrawing their charges, there are others who are seeing cases through to their conclusion. It highlights the continuing education and awareness-raising work that we need to undertake with farmwomen.

LABOUR RIGHTS PROGRAMME

Introduction

In 2012/13, farm workers embarked on a historic strike which has been widely documented and studied. While the strike resulted in a 52% increase in the Minimum Wage and signalled to both farmers and government that workers were deeply dissatisfied with most aspects of their living and working conditions, it was followed by a systematic backlash by farmers. Many did not pay the new minimum wage, others reduced the number of hours women worked, or changed their contracts from permanent to seasonal work, other farmers started charging higher rents, there were more unlawful dismissals, threats of evictions, etc.

1. Recruitment, Organising & Structure building

The programme assisted in the establishment of three new off-farm labour rights structures in 2013 in Wellington, Franschoek and Worcester. Women from WFP's pre-existing labour rights groups assisted WFP staff in the recruitment and organising of new groups of women; this proved to be highly effective as they were able to draw on and share their own experiences when discussing the importance of building strong labour rights structures and developing women's leadership.

Targeting settlements with high populations of seasonal farm workers, strategies included door-to-door information-sharing, inviting women to information sessions in the various areas, and distributing information pamphlets on women's basic labour rights.

Overview of Structures

Klapmuts

Regular structure meetings took place in the area, mainly without WFP staff. During the sessions, women shared their challenges with one another and also discussed ways to provide assistance. The group mainly focused on recruitment because many "new" farm workers had moved into the area, into the new government houses. The women in the structure are widely recognised in Klapmuts as "labour rights experts" because of their ability and track record of providing advice and assistance to other farm workers. In other words, the general farm worker population regard the women in the structure as a resource who they are able to approach for advice on various labour rights violations. Most of the cases were addressed by the women themselves or they referred them to other organisations or relevant government departments. What is unique about the Klapmuts group, is that, in addition to labour rights, they were able to address other issues – e.g. gender-based violence. (Many of the women in this structure also participate in WFP's other rights-based programmes where they have acquired other relevant knowledge).

De Doorns

The area consists of three sub-structures comprising the Stofland, Sandhills and Orchard areas. While the other two areas are relatively new, the Stofland structure is the oldest and the women are capacitated to meet independently of WFP staff. Indeed, the Stofland group was instrumental in recruiting women for the other two groups. Nonetheless, WFP still convened and facilitated joint monthly meetings with the three groups from De Doorns. Topics discussed at meetings were largely determined by the women themselves; meetings were also chaired by different farmwomen, and not WFP staff. In addition, after every WFP training workshop, the women held meetings on their own to share the information and knowledge they acquired with other women who did not attend the workshop. (Because WFP is only able to train a maximum of fifty women at every workshop, the different groups delegate representatives to attend, on a rotational basis).

Since many of the Stofland women were leaders in the farm worker strike, they have borne the brunt of the farmer backlash since the strike and have experienced many challenges. For example, many women in Stofland were not reappointed at the start of the harvesting season in November 2013. Others have had their employment contracts unilaterally changed by farmers. Many are dealing with unfair dismissals, eviction threats, retrenchments and non-compliance to the minimum wage. Most of the non-compliance issues were successfully resolved through the intervention of the women's structures; for example, farm workers threatened with eviction are still on in their homes. The women reported that they drew on the information and knowledge acquired through WFP's labour rights training to successfully challenge farmers and even the Labour Department. Successful interventions included cases where the farmer illegally disconnected workers' electricity; did not comply with the new minimum of R105 per day, unilaterally reduced workers' working hours, or forced workers to sign statements supporting farmers' applications for exemption¹. The women only contacted staff when they were unable to deal with a case.

The women from De Doorns played important leadership roles during the farm worker strike, not only among other women, but among the broader farm worker community. When the strike started in November, WFP had been working with the De Doorns group for nearly a year. They have reported that it was the training and capacity-building received from WFP which stood them in good stead for the onset of the strike; they had knowledge of labour rights, as well as confidence and experience in dealing with labour case work. Thus, although the strike organisers were initially largely male, the WFP-trained women soon asserted their authority and became part of the informal "strike committee" in De Doorns. Their confidence and leadership were soon recognised by the media, researchers and WFP's partner organisations, and they were increasingly invited, independently of WFP, to make presentations at and participate in various external forums and engagements.

¹ When the new minimum wage was announced in February, the Minister of Labour also announced that farmers could apply for exemption (from having to pay the new minimum wage) if they could prove that they were unable to afford the new wage. There is widespread anecdotal reports that many farmers are telling their workers they have qualified legal exemption, even when they have not.

Worcester

The structure was established in Avian Park in Worcester in the latter half of the year, and recruitment is thus still underway. Avian Park is an informal settlement in Worcester, where most residents depend on seasonal work on farms outside the area. The community is very poor and faced with many challenges, including a lack of formal housing, water, sanitation, electricity, roads and safety & security. Since the strike, many women have not been reappointed as farmers increasingly reduce the number of workers they employ for seasonal work. Although the women are not yet able to handle cases independently, the programme has identified a number of strong leaders amongst them. Because of their challenges with the municipality around poor service delivery, the women have already identified it as a campaigning issue they will tackle in 2014, with WFP's assistance.

Franschhoek

This new group attended weekend training workshops, and also participated in WFP's Information Sessions. WFP has been working with group to recruit more members, while also building their leadership. Because the group is still new, WFP dealt with all the case work, but always ensured that at least one woman "shadowed" the staff member. The cases mainly related to violations of the minimum wage and the unilateral reduction of working hours. WFP plans to focus more on this group in the new year because the group is still so new.

Wolseley

The new Wolseley group consists of about 50 "regular" women, while other women attend on an *ad hoc* basis. The women are still recruiting additional members to the structure, especially *isi-Xhosa* speaking women; they spoke to women in both their homes and workplaces. They have also started organising women living on nearby farms, and have dealt with a number of these women's cases. While most women are not yet able to deal with case work, there are a number of women who are confident enough to deal with cases, by referring them to either the Labour Department or WFP. Since the women's involvement with WFP, they have also started developing an interest in broader challenges facing their community; thus, they have started working with the local municipality to address service delivery issues.

Women started holding structure meetings without WFP staff, while at mentoring meetings with WFP staff, they were provided with assistance and advice on cases with which they were struggling.

Wellington

WFP started recruiting in Wellington in April; there are currently 40 "regular" women making up the group – both *isiXhosa* and Afrikaans-speaking women. Usually, this core group invites other women to the monthly meetings, especially when a specific topic will be addressed. The women were already able to deal with cases on their own, only referring the more complicated cases to the WFP staff for assistance.

2. Training and Capacity-building

The programme facilitated five weekend workshops on various topics, with a major focus on the Sectoral Determination, for a total of 220 women from the different community-based structures. As a result of the training workshops, an increasing number of women were able to deal with non-compliance cases on their own, especially those pertaining to minimum wage violations. Many women brought such cases to the attention of the Labour Department, which prompted provincial labour inspectors to do farm inspections in the areas, later extending to other areas. Whereas in the past, women did not have the confidence to take cases to the Department of Labour themselves, after the WFP training, many have now been able to contact DoL officials directly when they encounter labour rights problems. Women have also been able to challenge farmers who do not comply to the law – for example, seasonal workers now insist that farmers give them employment contracts – before the training, they did not know that seasonal workers were entitled to receive contracts, only permanent workers.

Sectoral Determination

The first weekend workshop took place from 22-24 February at Boontjies River in Wolseley with 48 women from four of the community-based labour rights structures. The focus of this workshop was the history of farm workers and the Sectoral Determination for Farm Workers. The Department of Labour explained to the women the criteria and procedures farmers have to fulfil in order to qualify for the exemptions stipulated by the Minister of Labour when the new minimum wage was announced. Farmers have to submit their financial statements to the Minister who will then decide if the farmer qualifies for exemption, based on his financial situation.

Women also wanted to know how they will know if a farmer has been successful with their exemption application since farmers are currently simply claiming they have been granted exemption, and there is no way that farm workers have of verifying this information. Many women explained that many of their farmers were not complying to the new minimum wage, and wanted to know what would happen to such farmers. On some farms, farmers had forced them to sign contracts agreeing to reduced working hours. Women that are permanent workers complained about additional deductions from their salaries for electricity, rent, and even transport to the doctor since the implementation of the R105 wage rate.

After the workshop, the women were able to make connections between their current conditions and the history of agriculture in South Africa. They also acquired practical information about their rights pertaining to the minimum wage. Following the workshop, a number of women in De Doorns successfully challenged their employers regarding deductions from their wages.

Role of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation & Arbitration (CCMA)

This weekend workshop took place from 27-29 May at Boontjies Rivier for 49 women. While the Labour Department facilitated a session on the Sectoral Determination, the CCMA session addressed the topic of the role and responsibility of the CCMA.

A second workshop on the same topics was facilitated from 25–27 October for another group of 47 women from four labour rights structures. In addition to the CCMA facilitating these

workshops, they also provided information sessions during Mentoring & Support meetings in the different areas.

After the trainings, the women were able to explain the role of the CCMA to others, and also assisted other farm workers in filling out the CCMA's 7/11 form. They could also advise about the period and procedures of CCMA referral. Women also know which cases should be referred to the CCMA and the Labour Department respectively.

Political Education

ILRIG facilitated a weekend workshop on political education from 16-18 August for 45 women. After the workshop, the women had a better understanding of how society works and the role of patriarchy in keeping women marginalised. The women were soon able to make the link between patriarchy and the reasons why higher paying jobs on farms are reserved for men, and also why women are paid less for doing the same work.

Labour Rights Training

In October and December, the Programme facilitated two weekend workshops in Boontjies River, with a total of 81 women from the various areas in which the Labour Programme works. WFP invited the Department of Labour and Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) to facilitate sessions on the LRA and dismissals.

Women were also given the opportunity to share their experiences on their respective farms. A number of women shared their stories in successfully reporting farmers who did not pay the new minimum wage to the Labour Department; they are now all receiving the legal minimum. They complained that Department of Labour inspections usually take place on compliant farms, and overlook those with widespread non-compliance issues.

One of the women, Charmaine, from WFP's more established groups co-facilitated the next session with the CCMA Commissioner. The woman explained to the others how to fill out a 7/11 form; the Commissioner was very impressed because Charmaine was able to explain the process step-by-step. After group work, the women were clear on when and how to refer cases to the CCMA.

Women reported that the workshop had capacitated them to:

- Know how to refer various cases to the Department of Labour and CCMA
- Attend meetings without staff in their areas when invited
- Assist other farm workers in filling out the CCMA's 7/11 form
- Challenge farmers with cases of non-compliance, independently of WFP

Information Sessions & Pamphleteering

Monthly Information sessions at the community-level were facilitated on the Sectoral Determination¹³, the new minimum wage and building women's leadership. Information Sessions took place in Wellington, Franschhoek, Worcester, Kayamandi, Paarl and De Doorns.

During the sessions, women are also given time to share their experiences, challenges and ask questions. Case work was also brought to the attention of WFP staff during Information Sessions. After the sessions, the programme received many telephonic enquiries calls from workers requiring advice and assistance, a number of which necessitated follow-up visits from staff to these areas.

The Information Sessions also afforded the programme with the opportunity to focus on building women's leadership by, for example, including capacitating them with skills such as gender & power relations; chairing a meeting; how to share rights-based information with other women; tackling case work on behalf of other women; etc. And, as noted above, women from established groups also co-facilitated sessions for the newer groups, thereby both developing their skills as well as serving as a role model for the other women.

The programme developed pamphlets on the new minimum wage, basic labour rights, Occupational Health and Safety and other labour laws. The pamphlet was developed in Afrikaans, English and *isiXhosa*. More than 6,500 pamphlets in Wellington, Paarl, Franschhoek and Worcester. Following the pamphleteering, the programme received numerous telephonic enquiries from workers beyond the normal reach of WFP's labour rights programme. For the majority of workers, these pamphlets contained rights information to which they were exposed for the very first time. Women reported that they were able to use the information when challenging farmers regarding various non-compliance issues by farmers.

Mentoring & Support Sessions

Monthly mentoring and support sessions were facilitated for all the community-based structures in the various areas. During these sessions, women were provided women with advice, support and referrals for case work which they undertook independently of WFP staff. Women also provided feedback on cases they had undertaken on their own, recruitment of new women to their structure, as well as challenges and achievements experienced in their respective areas or on the farms on which they work.

The sessions also provided staff with an opportunity to reinforce previous learnings (from training workshops, for example). From our experience, we know that it is necessary to regularly reinforce training on, for example, the various labour laws. Women also make use of these sessions to build and share leadership skills and provide support and solidarity to each other. For example, women have used the sessions to share their personal experiences of gender-based violence in order to provide support to a number of women still experiencing gender-based violence. In the sessions, women acknowledge each other for the work done and build each other. The sessions thus build trust among women as they share their personal and professional challenges and achievements with one another.

3. Advocacy, Lobbying and Campaigns

Workers' Day

WFP celebrated Workers' Day by hosting a public event for more than 200 women from different areas. The day started with a presentation on the history and importance of the day for workers. WFP distributed a T-shirt on which was printed the new minimum wage and key demands made by farm workers during the strike. A large part of the day was focused on collecting data on women's experiences of the backlash from farmers since the introduction of the new minimum wage. To this end, WFP developed a basic questionnaire to guide the data-collection process.

One of the most alarming issues that women reported was the fact that farmers were only paying R85 per day, and not the new minimum wage of R105. Many permanent workers living on farms reported that since the increase in the minimum wage, farmers have increased their rent and electricity charges. On other farms, all the women were retrenched or had their working hours drastically reduced; in all cases, these actions were unilaterally taken by the farmer.

The opportunity to identify commonalities in their experiences on different farms and different areas, was important for women as they realised that it was a systematic response on the part of many farmers. Sharing their experiences also led women to develop common strategies for addressing the conscious violation of the law by farmers, on their return to their areas.

4. Case Work

After the 2012/13 strike and the introduction of the new Minimum Wage in March 2013, the Programme saw a significant increase in case work from all areas, including those in which we currently do not work. Non-compliance was clearly pervasive in many areas.

Case work often extended into areas in which we do not work and where we do not have women's labour rights forums. The programme dealt with 60 cases during the year, with farmwomen undertaking many cases on their own. They have the knowledge and the confidence to either challenge farmers directly or to report violations to the Department of Labour. Thus, women only call on WFP staff when they need assistance – e.g. to prepare for a case before a meeting with a farmer.

At least one-third of our case work was telephonically handled when farm workers called the office after we had reached them through area-level information sessions and pamphlet distribution in various areas. Cases included unfair dismissals, evictions, pension funds payments, retrenchments and reduction of working hours and other unilateral contractual changes by farmers after the introduction of the new minimum wage. Most of the cases were successfully dealt with by WFP and farmwomen, while others were referred to the Labour Department.

5. Networking

Farm Worker Living Wage Coalition

Coalition meetings took place throughout the year and largely focused on the backlash that farm workers were experiencing after the 2012/13 strike. The Coalition thus focused on strengthening the farm worker committees on farms, especially those who had been actively involved during the strike, and were bearing the brunt of the backlash.

In March 2013, just after the introduction of the new Minimum Wage by the Minister of Labour, with farm workers from across the province, the Coalition organised a farm workers' march in Cape Town where workers handed over Memorandums to representatives of both the national and provincial governments.

Department of Labour Feedback

WFP attended the quarterly multi-stakeholder Department of Labour Agri-forum meeting on 25 April in Paarl. Feedback was given on compliance inspections in the following areas: De Doorns, Grabouw, Piketberg, Prince Albert, Riversdale and Villiersdorp. A total of 420 farms were inspected: 369 employers were paying the new Minimum Wage, while the rest were awaiting the outcome of their exemption applications. Another finding was that farmers either did not issue payslips or the payslips that they did issue to workers did not contain all the required information. While some houses were satisfactory, most were neglected and in need of maintenance.

The following recommendations were made:

- continuous inspections are needed with ongoing visibility of Inspectors in all areas.
- inspections should be scheduled for peak seasons (producers objected to this, because it will take away from valuable production time; civil society and unions insisted on it)
- the enforcement process must be followed by the issuing of compliance orders to non-compliant employers
- a separate inspection is needed of labour brokers.

PLAAS

PLAAS invited WFP and farm workers/dwellers to a workshop on 20 September. The purpose of the gathering was to exchange experiences, perspectives and information, and deepen the understanding of the situation on farms.

Betty Fortuin, a member of WFP's Labour Rights Programme structure, provided input on the reasons for the strike and the results of the farmer backlash. Researchers and academics presented models of cooperation between farm workers and farm owners. They cited international practices, like the US where Mexican migrant workers are provided with state-funded off-farm hostel accommodation and where they exit the country at the end of a season. There is a central alignment between government departments and organised agriculture to promote the sector. A UCT researcher made a presentation on the huge costs of farming and farmers' small profit margins.

A critique of the researchers' inputs was that they were mostly pro-commercial farmer. They did not take into account the legacy of land dispossession and the historical context of South Africa. International commercial agricultural practices cannot be duplicated in a South African context without addressing and redressing the historic imbalances.

Department of Labour's Agri-Forum

Quarterly Agri Forum meetings took place with the Labour Department and other relevant stakeholders, including producers and trade unions. In the last meeting of the year, the Department discussed the labour inspections planned for 10-14 October in the different areas. The areas were selected because of complaints received from farm workers about non-compliance by farmers. Stakeholders discussed four main issues affecting farm workers:

- Compressed working week agreement;
- Deductions for communal accommodation for farm workers living on farms;
- Deductions for electricity where housing is provided for free by charge;
- Deductions for goods purchased by farm workers from shop owned by farmer.

Farm Workers' Summit

Labour Minister, Mildred Oliphant, organised a Farm Workers' Summit in Citrusdal. The Minister had visited a number of farms in the area before the Summit and reported on conditions on farms. The inspections found that 54% of farm workers work more than the legal number of hours; 27% of workers do not get annual leave and child labour was visible on a number of farms. The Minister also explained that 620 farmers had applied for exemption, 189 received exemption, 100 were refused, 145 had outstanding documents to submit and 180 applications were still in process. The Labour Department has undertaken to appoint and allocate labour inspectors to the agriculture sector only; currently, labour inspectors work across all sectors.

ILRIG Globalisation School

WFP and the De Doorns labour rights structure were invited to participate in the Globalisation School in September. The focus of the workshop was on community self-organisation and strategies to assist rural people. Different speakers spoke on organising in the mining and agriculture sectors; different organisations, including WFP, also made presentations on their strategies of organising.

Southern African Farm Worker Network (SAFWN)

WFP's previous engagements with trade unions in the southern African region has demonstrated that women in trade unions often face discrimination and marginalisation. WFP thus identified a need to bring women in trade unions together. To this end, WFP convened a historic workshop in November for women in trade unions from six southern African countries, the objective of which was to share experiences, strategies and challenges. It became clear that women shared common experiences, irrespective of the country. This included women never getting elected to senior positions in the unions; unions only paying lip service to

women's interests or gender; unions not developing the skills of women shop stewards; and not making funds and other resources available to women's structures; etc.

The workshop therefore focused on building women's leadership and developing practical strategies for their respective contexts. The model of WFP and Sikhula Sonke as an "organising strategy" greatly interested all participants, and demonstrated the possibility of how NGOs and trade unions can work together around the common goal of organising and empowering women. Participants agreed on the value of the workshop and the need for annual follow-up workshops to deepen women's leadership and strategies for organising women agricultural workers. Depending on funding, WFP will convene such workshops going forward from 2014.

6. Challenges & Highlights

Challenges

In most areas, we have struggled to recruit foreign women workers despite targeting them because they are the most vulnerable group: farmers pay them less than South African workers, and they also receive none of the same benefits. Foreign workers are often afraid to join trade unions and become involved with organisations like WFP for fear of losing their jobs.

In other areas, many Xhosa-speaking women are unable to become involved in the labour rights structures, because they are forbidden to do so by their male partners. This becomes an issue when they need to participate in weekend workshops which necessitates being away from home for two nights. WFP is planning to have meetings with the men in 2014 to explain the benefits of the programme to women.

Highlights

As noted above, women are increasingly able to take on labour rights case work, independently of WFP staff. They are able to provide advice and assistance in the case of various labour rights violations. As the two cases below demonstrate, women's self-confidence and knowledge have increased as a result of their involvement in the Programme.

Aunty Betty of the De Doorns structure challenged the farmer on the minimum wage. He verbally promised to pay them R85, but the contract he was forcing workers to sign, stated that payment was R75. Aunty Betty asked the farmer to correct the contract, but he refused. She called all the workers together and explained everything to them. All the workers downed tools, and the farmer was forced to listen and correct the contract.

Teresa attended structure meetings, workshops and the week-long Training for Transformation (TfT) workshop, co-facilitated with the Grail. She joined the De Doorns labour rights group in 2012. She has been in an abusive relationship for many years. At the TfT training, she shared her story of abuse with the other women for the first time; all the women were supportive. When Teresa got home, she spoke to her husband and children. She told them about the workshop she had attended and that she was now empowered to stand up for her rights. She explained that she will get an interdict against him if the abuse does not stop. At the next structure meeting, Teresa appeared more positive and self-confident. She shared

that the abuse had stopped and that her husband has even given her his bank card to buy food for the household. This had never happened before – she attributed her confidence and actions to her membership of the labour rights structure and the knowledge that she had acquired.

LAND AND HOUSING PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

2013 was the centenary of the 1913 Land Act which had marked the “formal” and “legalised” systematic land dispossession of the majority of South Africans. From that point, blacks were only allowed to access land in the “native reserves” which were to become the Bantustans. The legacy of land dispossession is clearly still a critical aspect of the growing poverty and inequality in South Africa today, and government’s land reform programme is an inadequate and flawed response.

2. Training & Capacity Building

The Land and Housing Programme facilitated four workshops in February, June, August and December. An additional workshop was also co-facilitated with Lawyers for Human Rights in May. The workshops focussed on the link between land dispossession and racial oppression; Extension of Security of Tenure Act (ESTA); proposed new legislation and policies (ESTA Amendment Bill, Tenure Security Policy for Commercial Farming Areas and the policy on Strengthening the Relative Rights of those Working the Land); and the Right to Housing. Participants came from Ceres, Rawsonville, Wolesley and De Doorns. Most threats of eviction were reported from Rawsonville, De Doorns and Wolesley. Most of these threats are part of the backlash that farmers have directed at farmers following the minimum wage increase that resulted from the farm workers’ strike of 2012/13.

The Native Land Act came into effect on 19 June 1913 and marks the start of the legal and systematic land dispossession of black South Africans. Thus, on 19 June 2013, women gathered to reflect how the legacy of the Act continues to impact on their lives today. They discussed how access to land will positively influence their tenure and food security, as well as their psychological wellbeing. Their discussions and opinions of the land question was directly broadcast by Radio Valley FM, the local radio station.

The December workshop took place during 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women & Children. Participants had discussions on how their dependence on men for housing affected power relationships at home and, in some cases, led to domestic violence and an inability to leave violent relationships.

Information Sessions

WFP, together with members of the Rawsonville Crisis Committee (RCC), conducted seven information sessions. The information sessions took place in Rawsonville, Stellenbosch and Franschoek. The information sessions were conducted as a direct response to threats of evictions and requests by women to WFP for assistance. The procedures of ESTA were explained during these sessions, with farm workers always receiving the advice not to leave the farm/house without a valid court order.

Information Pamphlet

WFP developed a pamphlet explaining the history of the 1913 Native Land Act and its legacy for farming communities. (A copy is attached to this report as a separate attachment). WFP assisted members of RCC to distribute the pamphlet in Rawsonville and Worcester over the weekend of 24 – 25 May. Members of the Ceres Land Rights Forum also distributed pamphlets in the Ceres area. A total of 3,500 pamphlets were distributed.

3. Building women's leadership in land rights structures

The Land and Housing Programme had a planning workshop in February with the Rawsonville Crisis Committee and the Ceres Land Rights Forum. During this workshop, WFP and farmwomen discussed the main events for the year, and specifically their proposed ideas and roles for the various days – e.g. the 1913 Land Campaign. Women played various key leadership roles, as outlined below.

Rawsonville Crisis Committee (RCC)

RCC members played an active role in mobilising and informing community members during the farm worker strike and related activities. RCC members also experienced police harassment and intimidation during the strike. For example, Josephine Mbeta's house was searched without a search warrant after she assisted WFP in pamphleteering. Florina Karelse was threatened with arrest should there be any demonstrations in Rawsonville at the resumption of the strike in January. WFP staff, together with RCC members, demanded an urgent meeting with the Rawsonville Police Superintendent in the area to discuss our dissatisfaction with police conduct, and put them on notice.

RCC members continued to monitor the court case of workers and community members arrested during public demonstrations during the strike. Five people in Rawsonville were charged with public violence. After numerous court appearances, the cases against them were finally withdrawn.

RCC members also showed solidarity with farm workers facing similar public order charges in the Barrydale area, and who were members of partner organisations, Mayebuwe and CSAAWU. The matter was only concluded in December 2013, with the five being found guilty of public violence and obstruction.

Structure members actively mobilised their communities to participate in big events and campaigns. These included:

- International Women's Day on 9 March: The day focused on three themes: Land Reform, Gender-Based Violence and the Farm Worker Strike. A review was done of the strike and the implementation of the new Minimum Wage. Women reported on the non-compliance by farmers and farmers' application for exemption (from paying the increased Minimum Wage). They also reported cases of farmers paying the new Minimum Wage, but immediately increasing farm workers' rent, charging children over 18 years of age to pay additional rent, irrespective of whether they are working or not. Farmers also stopped the

practice of “salary advances”: where a worker could get an advance on their salary for the payment of school fees, doctor’s bills, etc.

- The farm worker march to Parliament on 23 March organised by the Farm Worker Coalition: Thousands of farm workers from 25 rural towns gathered in Cape Town to deliver a Memorandum to the Department of Labour demanding an end to the victimisation of farm workers and dwellers, expediting of the land reform process, access to land and a living wage.
- Structure members played an active role in the build up and centenary activities of the 1913 Native Land Act. Members from both the Ceres and Rawsonville land rights structures met to plan their participation in the 1913 commemoration. They decided on a theme depicting how farm workers, as descendents of slaves, became landless due to colonial occupation and apartheid. This planning meeting stand out as a highlight of the year because women developed their own theme and took ownership and responsibility for the implementation of their theme.

On 17 May, 20 RCC members had a meeting to discuss the details of their participation: *inter alia* they agreed that Christine Mohobo would represent the Rawsonville community on a land Caravan² that would travel across the country to collect community demands to be delivered to the Union buildings.

As a build up to the Caravan, structure members in Ceres and Rawsonville were responsible for pamphleteering. Magrieta Pieterse, made contact with Valley FM and arranged that information about the centenary be broadcast; she also had the opportunity to share on air a poem she had written.

RCC members attended the Caravan launch at the Slave Lodge in Cape Town, on 1 June. Magrieta Pieterse, from the RCC, read a poem on farmwomen’s land and food struggles. Florina Karelse, also from the RCC, informed the audience and media about the link between the lack of land and farm worker evictions in Rawsonville.

Members from WFP’s two land rights structures received and hosted the caravan on 2 June. WFP staff did not have any formal roles during the event, with the women taking full responsibility for the day’s activities. Their main theme was how they, as descendants of slaves, are still without land. The problems of evictions, job and food insecurity were linked to their landlessness and the unequal ownership of land, with many commercial farmers owning multiple farms. The Ceres structure members were responsible for making the slave costumes and developing a short play which recreated the hardships of slaves, especially women, on farms.

More than 200 hundred women from Rawsonville, Ceres, Stellenbosch, De Doorns and Wolesley actively participated in the interactive session following the drama. Getruida Baartman from the Ceres Land Rights Forum facilitated proceedings for the day, while the Welcome, inputs and Closure of the event were all done by other members of the two

²WFP is part of an alliance of 10 land rights organisations, Tshintsha Amakhaya (TA), which collectively planned and embarked on the 1913 land caravan. Each organisation had a turn to host the caravan which comprised representatives from all ten organisations, and which travelled from Cape Town, to the Eastern Cape, and onward to Pretoria. WFP hosted the caravan in Rawsonville, one day after its launch in Cape Town.

land rights structures. Structure members then handed over their “Letter to President Zuma” to Christine Mohobo, their representative on the Caravan who would be travelling to the Union Buildings in Pretoria, arriving on 17 June, the actual centenary of the 1913 Land Act. Inserts by women recorded during the Rawsonville event were also broadcast on 19 June by Valley FM.

- In addition, RCC members also demonstrated their leadership by taking an active role in assisting Spooky Town residents when their houses were flooded in May. They contacted the municipal emergency services who came to lend assistance. After a meeting with the Municipality, they took it upon themselves to call a Spooky Town community meeting where they informed the community of measures to minimise further flooding. They also organised the community to cut trees and place it on the banks of the river in an attempt to break the flow of water to the area.
- RCC members directly liaised with and referred cases of evictions and threats of eviction to the Department of Rural Development & Land Reform (DRDLR), without assistance from WFP. They are also liaising with the Municipality and DRDLR for alternative accommodation for a fellow RCC member, Nancy Bosman, who must vacate a farmhouse after her extension of an eviction order expired at the end of May. During the demonstration in Worcester on 19 June, Nancy had the opportunity to explain the challenge of legal evictions directly to the Provincial Director of Tenure Security. Fellow RCC members continue to support her in the matter.
- RCC members independently organised a protest outside a wine cellar where farmers were meeting with the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, on 30 May. The purpose of the meeting was for farmers to share their financial challenges with the Minister. Despite requesting an audience with the Minister, Rawsonville community members were not given the opportunity to attend the meeting. Nonetheless, they engaged the Minister by protesting outside the meeting venue. He spoke to them briefly at the end of his meeting with the farmers. They informed him of the mass retrenchments of women after the announcement of the new Minimum Wage, the growing farm worker evictions, and the backlash of farmers following the new Minimum Wage announcement.
- Ceres structure members, after receiving a challenge from the Provincial Director of DRDLR to find for themselves an available farm for sale which the Department would buy for them as a land reform project, approached a farmer who was interested in selling his farm. After having an initial meeting with the farmer, the Ceres women asked WFP to attend a follow-up meeting with them and the farmer. WFP forwarded the details of the farm to the Provincial Director, and a feasibility inspector was sent to the farm. The women are awaiting the outcome of their application.
- RCC members attended an Imbizo organised by the Department of Justice (DoJ) on 14 July in Worcester. The women addressed the issue and impact of farm worker evictions. They explained how ESTA is not uniformly interpreted and applied by different magistrates. Magistrates still grant eviction orders in the absence of alternative accommodation.

- Department of Justice (DoJ) Community Outreach: The DOJ had a community outreach programme on 31 July in Rawsonville. Attorneys from the Department offered free legal assistance to the community. RCC members informed, mobilised and assisted community members to attend this legal clinic.
- Spooky Town houses were again flooded in August; at least a 100 people had to be relocated to the church hall. RCC members, although themselves affected by the floods, played a leadership role in organising the community and distributing the aid that was provided by different welfare groups. WFP staff visited the area during the floods and were encouraged by the strength and leadership that RCC members showed. Although all their belongings, including beds and other furniture, were completely soaked, they still smiled and were willing to assist others.
- On 13 September, RCC members attended a Rawsonville community meeting, facilitated by the Municipality. They were informed that the Municipality will not lift the river wall and will not install electricity in the homes in Spooky Town. Reasons provided by the Municipality included: the unbudgeted costs for installing electricity and raising the wall; there are plans to relocate the residents of Spooky Town because of the recurrent threat of flooding.
- RCC members, with WFP, had a scheduled meeting with the Municipal Manager on 23 September, but the meeting did not take place because he left his office without formally cancelling the meeting. At a multi-stakeholder meeting organised by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), councillors refused to sit around the table with RCC members present. The same thing happened at a multi-stakeholder meeting at the Breede Valley Municipality organised by DRDLR.
- On 6 August, women on Mendoza farm, Ceres, had a meeting with Mr Kelly, an official of the Witzenberg Municipality. They spoke about the unsuitability of the outside toilets, the limited water supply, especially during summer, and the farmer's offer to sell the houses. Mr Kelly indicated that the Municipality is prepared to give R45 000 towards the installation of new toilets in individual houses and that the farmer must contribute the rest. The farmer wants to sell the houses to the State and is therefore not prepared to invest any money in upgrading the housing. Mr Kelly told them that the limited water supply during summer is not because of broken dam pipes, but probably because the farmer was restricting the water supply. He advised them to discuss the matter with the farmer. The women scheduled a meeting with the Department of Rural Development to discuss the farmer's offer to sell the houses. Unfortunately, the meeting was cancelled and the Department failed to commit to another meeting.
- WFP started supporting the Hawequa community after they received a notice to vacate their homes in December 2011; indeed WFP assisted the community in receiving a temporary moratorium on the eviction in February 2012. The Hawequa community subsequently joined the Joint Forestry Structure, comprising other forestry communities, and supported by the Surplus Peoples Project. WFP attended some of the Joint Forestry Structure workshops and multi-stakeholder engagements. The issues on the agenda were land ownership, and environmental and economic sustainability of the forestry communities. However, WFP took a decision to withdraw its participation from the forestry

communities, as they are not our core constituency and they receive support from a partner organisation.

3. Networking

LAMOSA and Tshintsha Amakhaya (TA)

On 15-16 February, LAMOSA and Tshintsha Amakhaya (TA) jointly conducted a Land and Agrarian planning workshop. One member each of the Rawsonville and Ceres land rights structures attended the workshop. The purpose was to bolster solidarity, increase visibility as a collective, and draw attention to the need for land and agrarian transformation, as the country prepared to commemorate the Land Act Centenary on 19 June 2013. Workshop participants expressed the desire for collaboration, the need to rethink strategies, and the urgency of radical action. Getruida Baartman, from WFP's Ceres Land Rights Forum, told participants that she is prepared to die in her pursuit to see fair land redistribution, but she wants the assurance that others will look after her children should she become a fatality in the struggle for land.

People's Dialogue

WFP took part in a People's Dialogue meeting from 24 to 25 February in Johannesburg, which was represented by Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain country reports, reflect on the past year's actions and plan for the year ahead. An overview was also given on the global economic crisis. The South African economy was hit very hard, leading to massive job losses which affected SADC migrant workers. Southern Africa is still a major supplier of raw goods which leads to a continuous presence of major extractive companies in the region. Impacts of extractives include land grabs, pollution of water and natural resources; a negative social impact on women, specifically, is the rising HIV/AIDS incidence. The impact of extractives affects the livelihoods of peasant women directly because they are the majority of agricultural producers – the loss of livelihoods directly impacts on food security and energy. From the country reports, it became clear that Namibia has the most stable land reform programme. It was suggested that we study their land reform programme and lobby for good practices to be implemented in other SADC countries.

Three campaigns were decided on for the period ahead:

- 1) Land and food sovereignty
- 2) Ecological crisis and extractives
- 3) The state, democracy and popular power in Southern Africa

Wine Industry Ethical Trade Association (WIETA)

WFP participated in a number of WIETA board meetings throughout the year. The farm worker strike and civil society's participation and support were intensely debated. Some producer board members were of the opinion that civil society did not do enough to promote WIETA during the strike. Civil society argued that WIETA, as a collective, did not do enough to support workers during the strike and that they refused to support workers' call for a R150 daily wage.

WFP reiterated that its first priority is to protect and promote the interests of workers, and not WIETA. Civil society also conveyed the sentiments other Farm Worker Coalition³ partners who are not part of WIETA. Many Coalition partners' continuously questioned the role of WFP in WIETA, as they felt that WIETA served the interests of producers and has little benefit for workers.

Producer members wanted everyone to agree that during times of conflict, they will refrain from saying anything negative about producers and refer the matter to WIETA. Civil society, including WFP, refused and said that we have an obligation to speak out about rights violations on farms. Certain producer members are uncomfortable with unions and civil society organisations who publically expose human rights violations on farms. They want all complaints to be dealt with within the lengthy process of WIETA. It took more than a month for WIETA members to agree on a press statement that highlights and condemns the farmer backlash as a result of the new Minimum Wage.

World Social Forum

WFP attended the World Social Forum (WSF) in Tunisia from 25 – 31 March, as part of a People's Dialogue (PD) / Rural Women's Assembly delegation (RWA). The PD and RWA both organised their own discussion forums at the WSF. Whilst the PD focused on extractives and alternatives to climate change, the RWA discussion focused on how the livelihoods of peasant women are affected when governments allow transnational corporations to take over agricultural land.

The RWA also convened a meeting between women from Southern Africa and Latin America. Black Tunisian women gate-crashed the meeting and shared their racial and sexual discrimination experiences with the rest of the women. As a way forward, it was agreed to have a conference with women of African descent to discuss their specific challenges and develop strategies on how to counter these challenges.

The PD and RWA, together with the Latin American partners, convened a session on extractivism on the last day of the Forum. Representatives from Canada, Ghana, France, Norway, Tanzania and Zimbabwe shared their stories. A Marikana survivor, who was part of the RWA delegation, shared her experience of the Marikana massacre and how militarisation of big corporations led to the death of many mine workers. The various delegates committed themselves to strengthen a global network to fight extractivism and its resultant damaging consequences.

Risk Management

WFP was invited by Oxfam to participate in a Risk Management workshop in Bangkok from 12-14 March. Most of the delegates were from the Asia-Pacific Region; WFP was one of three African delegates. The overall objective of the workshop was to provide an opportunity to explore the risk we face in day-to-day active citizenship work. It provided a space to articulate

³ WFP was a co-convenor of the Farm Worker Coalition, comprising farm worker trade unions and NGOs. The Coalition supported striking farm workers during the strike, as well as monitored the backlash of farmers and the brutality of police. They also coordinated collective actions such as farm worker marches and rallies.

these risks, and define from a Southern perspective how these risks could be mitigated and appropriately responded to. We all shared struggles related to community access and “ownership” of land and natural resources. Reflecting from a South African perspective, we noted that we shared similar challenges in terms of evictions, inadequate land and exploitative practices of big companies over natural resources.

We used five generic case studies to:

- determine which situations can lead to risk/conflict
- develop strategies to diffuse / mitigate the risks
- develop ways in which risks be turned into opportunity

Overall, we learned not to simply react when a risky situation arises, but to do proper planning which considers the factors that will mitigate risks. The roles of different partners should also be clarified upfront, to minimise potential conflict between role players.

The workshop was of particular relevance to WFP because we have increasingly been called upon to provide assistance to communities who are facing various risks – e.g. flooding, heavy rains, fires of informal houses, etc. Climate change risks will also contribute to the risks that women face, both those living on farms and in informal settlements.

Future of Agriculture and the Rural Economy (FARE) Launch

WFP was invited to attend the FARE launch on 26 April in Stellenbosch. It is an initiative jointly chaired by the Western Cape Economic Development Forum and the Economic Development Process. The purpose of FARE is to unite stakeholders within the agricultural sector and put support in place that will aid economic development in rural communities. A comprehensive rural development strategy needs to be put in place that is representative of the views of everyone living and working in rural communities. A FARE panel was introduced, comprising of legal experts, economists, agricultural researchers and academics. The purpose of the panel is to consult with rural communities, both farmers, workers, farm dwellers and those living in rural towns on their needs, priorities and expectations. FARE also engaged with members of the Coalition on its preliminary report and obtained further recommendations from farm workers represented in the Coalition. The process will continue in 2014.

LAMOSIA and HBS Round Table

WFP was invited to attend a round table discussion on the National Development Plan (NDP), facilitated by LAMOSIA and HBS on 9 May. The sub-themes that were discussed were Food Security, Land Reform and Climate Change. The HBS input highlighted the importance of land for the majority of Africans. The link was also made between poverty and inequality, land ownership and productive use of land. There was also acknowledgement that rural women are the backbone of agriculture, but have weaker tenure and land rights. It is therefore important that their voices be heard and that options be developed for food security, land reform and climate justice.

The Deputy Minister for Rural Development and Land Reform, Minister Lechesa and Mohammed Karaan, a Commissioner for the NDP, provided inputs on the NDP. The NDP still

focuses on export-based agriculture, where white commercial farmers will assist black farmers to continue with the existing agricultural model. The NDP also acknowledges that the 30% land redistribution target will not be met by 2014, and that sustainable land reform has not been achieved. It was also shared that the constraints on land reform were not necessarily capital. The bulk of the land reform budget was spent on bureaucrats and not on the acquisition of land.

Some of the critiques that were raised after their inputs were:

- Valuable agricultural land is used for mining; this uproots agricultural communities and especially the livelihoods of women
- The NDP does not effectively address urbanisation
- Black farmers are exploited in strategic partnerships with white farmer mentors
- The projected increase in the number of farm workers, which will be dependent on the goodwill of commercial farmers, is far removed from reality
- The NDP is also not consistent reducing carbon emissions. Although it introduces concepts of the Green Economy, it continues with existing agricultural and development models that have a high carbon output.

As a way forward it was agreed that the document is weak, and that it should be used as the basis to start discussions on agrarian transformation, food security and climate change. We must continue to occupy spaces that will lead to policy changes; and find policy gaps to use as advocacy tools. We must also strengthen organisation and convince government to reallocate their resources and hold them accountable.

TCOE's Dialogue on Self-organisation

WFP participated in the Trust for Community Outreach and Education's (TCOE) Dialogue on self-organisation of local communities. The objective of the Dialogue was to: discuss the role of NGOs in the current conjuncture; draw critical lessons from the TCOE case study; develop and build our understanding of what facilitates or hinders self-organisation and processes where the poor act in their own interest and have agency. WFP reflected on the experience between WFP and Sikhula Sonke. WFP noted that a good working relationship between organisations is built on trust, equality in partnership; clear understanding of guiding principles that regulates the relationship, a built-in conflict resolution strategy and regular assessment on the status of the relationship. It was noted during discussions that movements established from NGOs aspire to operate like NGOs and might separate from local identities.

Feminist Dialogue

WFP, RCC members and members of the WFP De Doorns Labour Rights Structure participated in a feminist dialogue, hosted by the University of Stellenbosch on 30 – 31 May. This was a space created for women to discuss the "social crisis" and women's responses from a feminist perspective. They discussed forms of struggle of women in 2012 within various rural, urban and mining communities. Women's experiences in the farm worker strike, the Marikana massacre and urban women's struggle for housing and basic services were shared. Members of WFP's land rights structures also shared their stories. The Dialogue also tried to narrow the gap between poor rural and urban women. By the end of the workshop, they all

agreed that poor communities experience similar challenges with regard to food security, housing and basic services.

Betty Fortuin from De Doorns explained how women started to mobilise the community at 4.00am to participate in the strike. She also shared how women looked after one another's children and how those with a little food shared with others. She elaborated on how challenging it was for women to be part of the main organising committee and that women were not automatically afforded the opportunity to speak on public platforms as men naturally dominated these spaces. Magrieta Pieterse from the RCC explained her community's challenge with food security. She read a poem that she had written about hunger and how a piece of land will help her feed her family. She made a plea to authorities to listen to women; otherwise they will have no alternative but to act.

The first day of the workshop also included a solidarity visit to Rawsonville. Workshop participants from other provinces visited Spooky Town and a farm in Louwshoek where all the women workers had been retrenched after the announcement of the new Minimum Wage for farm workers. The visitors were hosted by RCC members who explained their challenges and took them on a tour of Spooky Town and the farm. At the end, those visiting were struck by the levels of deprivation and lack of food that this community experiences.

People's Assembly

WFP, together with Rawsonville and Ceres structure members, participated in the People's Assembly, organised by the Centre for African Studies at UCT on 21 June. This Assembly was organised to commemorate the centenary of the 1913 Native Land Act. The keynote speaker for the day was Professor Utsa Patnaik of India. She compared the Indian peasant land struggle with the one in South Africa. She said that unequal land distribution is at odds with a true democracy. She explained that peasants who are losing their land in India, first committed suicide, but are now resisting government's land grabs and economic policies that serve the interests of international capital. She challenged academics to develop expropriation blueprints that can be used as a basis for discussion by social movements.

Speakers from the Zimbabwe, Namibia and Mozambique also shared their land struggles. A Zimbabwean small-scale farmer informed participants how black women are now land owners as a result of their land occupations and forceful expropriation of land. She said that the programme was started by the people and that the government only supported it later. However, she warned against the violence and loss of lives that took place in Zimbabwe. The Mozambican speaker enlightened participants on how inter-governmental agreements led to exploitation of local people's land, their food security and accompanying negative environmental impacts. Practices in the Mozambican pro-savannah area were used as a case study. Brazilians grow commodities there which are exported to Japan who manufacture and trade it. The planting of monocrops (agro-fuels and animal feed) destroy indigenous vegetation and do not contribute towards food production. Structure members asked questions and shared their struggles with land, evictions and hunger. At the end of the Assembly, a Memorandum was compiled that was delivered to parliament on 22 June.

Launch of the South African Rural Women's Assembly

WFP was responsible for organising the launch of the South African chapter of the Rural Women's Assembly. More than 200 women from different organisations in South Africa attended the event that was hosted in the Western Cape. Delegates from Swaziland and Namibia came to support the launch.

The first day was spent on introductions, discussion on what the different women's organisations do and challenges that they experience. The common challenge is land and resources necessary for successful farming. Sexual harassment was also listed as a challenge and some groups listed particular challenges regarding tribal leadership and control over land. Highlights of the Assembly were the cultural evening on Monday and the march and related activities in Cape Town on Tuesday. The main streets in Cape Town came to a standstill during mid-day on 15 October. Women in colourful traditional wear marched through the streets of Cape Town to celebrate International Rural Women's Day and to deliver a Memorandum to Parliament outlining their challenges and demanding change.

The rest of the day was spent at the District Six Homecoming Museum where Pregs Govender (Human Rights Commissioner), Wallace Mgogi (Commission for Gender Equality) and Dr Rose September (Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities) answered questions from women. The questions dealt with land loss, evictions, poverty and hunger experienced by farm workers, land loss and damage as a result of mining, lack of basic services, violence and rape experience by all women, and authorities' inability to deal with the problems.

The last day focused on charting the way forward.

4. Campaigns

The big continuous campaign throughout 2013 focused on the 1913 Native Land Act and the legacy of land dispossession. As mentioned earlier, WFP and the rural communities hosted the Caravan on 2 June. The Caravan collected the challenges and demands of farmwomen living in Rawsonville and other Western Cape rural communities. A DVD was compiled illustrating the different conditions experienced on the Caravan route. The Union Buildings were the final stop of the Caravan. Christine Mohobo of an RCC member delivered a Memorandum on behalf of Rawsonville to the Union Buildings.

On 19 June, exactly 100 years since the promulgation of the Act, women marched to and delivered Memorandums to the Department of Rural Development and the Breede Valley Municipality in Worcester, to highlight the problems of evictions and the related issue of lack of alternative accommodation, when eviction orders are granted by the Courts. The Senior Prosecutor at the Worcester Magistrate's Court refused to accept the Memorandum from the women, whereafter the women staged a sit-in near the Court and in front of the police station.

The Memorandum addressed the slow pace of land reform, particularly for women; the challenges with evictions and the discretionary interpretation and implementation of ESTA by different magistrates. The highlight of the day was when women blocked off the main street in Worcester by hanging washing across the width of the road, depicting evicted families' lack of home and place to hang washing.

As part of World Food Day and Rural Women's Day celebrations, women occupied the Drakenstein Municipal offices to protest about the non-provision of alternative accommodation by the Municipality after the Fillies family was evicted from Salmonsvlei farm in Paarl, but not provided with alternative accommodation. Following the eviction, the family had lived on the side of a road for two weeks until the case came to WFP's notice. Immediately after the protest action – i.e. on the same day – the Municipality provided the Fillies family with alternative housing, albeit an informal structure in an informal settlement, something which they had failed to do until then. (ESTA is silent on the quality of housing that municipalities need to provide; thus informal structures generally qualify as alternative accommodation).

5. Legislative engagement

Due to the centenary of the 1913 Native Land Act, many government engagements and processes focussed on the legacy of the Act.

Department of Rural Development

On 5 February, WFP was invited to a briefing session by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform's (DRDLR) Campaign on the 1913 Native Land Act. A WFP staff member and three RCC members attended the event. The purpose of the session was to outline the Department's programme objectives regarding the centenary of the Native Land Act and provide a calendar for provincial events. However, there was no additional budgetary allocation for the campaign.

RCC members spoke about evictions, lack of alternative accommodation and basic services. They also challenged the Department to stop hosting meetings in fancy hotels, but to visit the areas and witness the conditions under which evictees live.

Deputy President Engagements

On 12 February, the Deputy President hosted a farm worker Imbizo on a wine estate in Franschhoek. The following ministers were also in attendance: Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade and Industry, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Provincial Minister of Agriculture. The Imbizo was in direct response to the 2012/13 farm worker strike. Unfortunately, only members of two ANC-aligned farm worker trade unions (FAWU and BAWUSA) were formally invited to the Imbizo. WFP and two RCC members arrived an hour late because we only learned about the event 30 minutes before it started. The issues of tenure security, evictions, land redistribution, farm worker equity schemes, farm worker conditions and a living wage once were once again tabled before government. He gave an undertaking to address the challenges listed.

The Deputy President held a follow-up meeting in De Doorns in May to engage with farm workers at a broader platform, because the farm worker strike started in De Doorns.

WFP was invited to a meeting at Tuynhuys on 6 September organised by the Deputy President's office. The main purpose was to assess the progress since the Deputy President's visits to the Western Cape in February and May. WFP indicated that the current model of commercial agriculture does not ensure food security for farm workers, that evictions still

continue and that women workers are suffering more from the farmer backlash after the implementation of the new Minimum Wage in March 2013.

WFP also attended a special agricultural sector stakeholder meeting at Parliament convened by the Deputy President. Heads of various government departments provided report back on initiatives implemented in response to farm workers' complaints. WFP acknowledged the initiatives made, thanked the Deputy President for his consistent follow up, but also mentioned that many things still needed to be done. The question of unilateral changes to conditions of employment, casualisation of women farm workers, food insecurity especially during off-season, non-implementation of current policies, inadequate labour laws for seasonal women workers, evictions, slow pace of land reform and the lack of adequate alternative housing norms and standards were highlighted by WFP as pertinent challenges for women living and working on farms.

Engagements with Provincial Director of DRDLR

Following a request from farmwomen at WFP's Rural Women's Day event in October 2012, and contained in the Memorandum handed over to provincial DRDLR officials during the March on the same day, the Department agreed to a meeting with WFP on 8 March 2013. Women representatives of the Ceres and Rawsonville land rights structures and WFP attended the meeting with Mr Mntwini, the Provincial Director of DRDLR. He started the meeting by apologising for not responding to the Memorandum earlier. The women were afforded the opportunity to state their challenges and outline their requests. Challenges that were outlined included their ongoing struggles to access land, housing and basic services, lack of resources to support small-scale farmers, evictions, food insecurity and job insecurity. The basic request made was for access to land to produce for food security. A request was also made to place a moratorium on evictions.

Mr Mntwini indicated that the Department does not currently have available land on their books. He asked the women to identify land and inform the Department when a farm becomes available for sale, so that the Department can buy it for them. He also indicated that the Department was legally advised not to place a moratorium on evictions, as this will infringe on farmers' right to property. He also agreed to take all the listed matters to the Minister and Deputy-President and set up a multi-stakeholder meeting to develop a mechanism for the way forward.

Follow-up engagements with Mr Mntwini and his Department took place in April and a multi-stakeholder meeting was convened in May. Representatives from SAPS, Department of Labour, WFP, Sikhula Sonke, TCOE, and BAWUSA attended the multi-stakeholder meeting with DRDLR on 3 May. The main question was: how we deal with evictions and land reform. Concern was expressed by the DRDLR about transforming the agricultural sector without compromising food security, especially in the light of failed land reform projects. It was also noted that the farm worker strike was an expression of farm workers' unhappiness with their working and living conditions. The following actions were agreed upon:

- DRDLR will launch an awareness campaign around evictions
- Land audits will be made available
- Fast track land reform projects

- Fast track women's access to land
- Assist with failed land reform projects
- The DRDLR will drive this multi-stakeholder process
- DRDLR will develop a Terms of Reference for this process

In July, WFP was also invited by the DRDLR to a multi-stakeholder meeting in Stellenbosch. This meeting was a direct response to a Memorandum that WFP and farmwomen from the Ceres and Rawsonville structures delivered to the Department on 19 June 2013. The main point on the agenda was the increasing evictions. Statistics were provided of the pending eviction court applications and the processes that must be followed to ensure meaningful engagement. It was noted that the Drakenstein Municipal area has the highest number of formal eviction applications. The statistics only indicated the number of cases, but not the number of households or the number of people affected. ESTA requires that a report be tabled in court which explains: the occupier's right of residence, access to alternative accommodation, possible effects of eviction on the occupiers, etc. Officials indicated that magistrates do not always request these reports; this results in eviction orders being issued without provision of alternative accommodation. Families thus end up without shelter because of a flawed process and are then referred from one state institution to another.

National Reference Group (NAREG) Working Group for Land Tenure Security

WFP was invited to become part of the NAREG working group for Land Tenure Security. WFP attended NAREG meetings in April. NAREG is an inclusive national structure that consults different institutions such as organised agriculture, civil society, unions, experts and academics on the Green Paper reform process. Six working groups were established to develop policy, legislation and strategy that will give more definition to the Green Paper.

WFP was specifically asked to provide a gender perspective within the working group. The purpose of this particular working group meeting was to finalise stipulations to the draft ESTA Amendments Bill. It also looked at the Tenure Security Policy for Commercial Agriculture Areas and the policy dealing with the Relative Rights of those Working the Land.

DRDLR Budget Vote Speech

WFP attended the budget vote speech for the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform on 31 May. The budget vote speech focused on: progress that made through the rural development and land reform programme; the reopening of the lodgement of land claims and the land audit.

Minister Mkwinti gave an overview of the achievements of the Comprehensive Rural Development Strategy throughout the country. He also indicated that government will invest money in irrigation schemes and re-capitalise failed land reform farms. The Minister assured Parliament that all land reform farms will be productive by 2015/2016. However, he failed to state how the DRDLR will fast track new land reform processes.

National Policy Consultation

WFP attended a National Land Policy Consultation which took place in Johannesburg on 2 August. DRDLR presented its new land policies. Participants were informed about the following policies:

- Policy for the Recapitalisation and Development Programme of the DRDLR
- State Land Lease and Disposal Policy
- Tenure Security for Commercial Farming Areas
- Strengthening the Relative Rights of People Working the Land
- Communal Land Tenure Policy

A main input was given on the controversial Strengthening the Relative Rights of those Working the Land Policy. According to this policy, workers will obtain a 10%, 25% and 50% share in the land after 10, 25 and 50 years of “disciplined service”. Disciplined service is, however, not defined, and if left to the employer to decide, no worker might be considered disciplined.

WFP also indicated that most female workers are seasonally employed and might work on different farms on a year-to-year basis. They will thus be automatically excluded from any benefits that this policy might present. The policy is also not clear whether it will be implemented retrospectively and the fear was raised that pre-emptive dismissals and evictions will take place before a worker completes 10 years of “disciplined service”. Workers will also only benefit from this policy once they leave the farm. This effectively means that you must either die, resign or be dismissed to obtain your market-related value in land. It is also not exactly clear how the economics will work - for example, if ten workers on the farm all have 10 years’ disciplined service, how will the shares be distributed to all the workers, unless it was the intention of the policy writers not to give shares to all the workers, but only to the “disciplined” ones. Significantly, the implementation of this policy is only voluntary, which means that farmers can choose not to implement it.

Land Reform Policy Workshop

A special Parliamentary *ad hoc* Committee Meeting to coordinate oversight on the legacy of the Native Land Act 1913, took place in Stellenbosch on 23-24 August. The focus of the meeting was to present the new legislation and policies which intend to address the land question in South Africa. WFP was invited to do a presentation on the proposed amendments to ESTA and new Tenure Security on Commercial Farming Areas Policy. A member of the RCC and Ceres Land Rights Structure also attended this workshop.

WFP’s input spoke to the challenges in implementation and monitoring of existing legislation, which if not dealt with effectively, will be duplicated in the new legislation, and make little difference to existing problems. WFP also reiterated the plea for a moratorium on evictions until proper systems are in place and rural dwellers are accommodated in secure, alternative housing.

Both structure members addressed parliamentarians and those present on their challenges to obtain land for small-scale farming and on the continuous farm worker evictions.

Human Rights Commission Engagement

On 15 August, WFP and RCC members participated in the Human Rights Commission's (HRC) discussion on the "Right to Housing", which took place in the Drakenstein Municipality council chambers. Adequate housing for rural dwellers and farm workers was the main point on the agenda.

RCC members presented their evictions experiences. They also indicated that the Breede Valley Municipality offers very little assistance during evictions. They shared a recent case where municipal officials removed a family from a farm and "dumped" them in Spooky Town. Emily Zuzane, an RCC member, had to accommodate them in her one room informal dwelling. They also spoke about the challenges of living in an informal settlement without basic services and the continuous threat of floods. Magrieta Pieterse indicated that most legislation and government forms are in English, even the proceedings at the HRC discussion. This limits farmwomen's understanding and participations and might lead to violation of their rights. Florina Karelse spoke on how farm dwellers are increasingly forced to sign written agreements to vacate farm housing.

6. Realization of legal rights

WFP and the labour rights structures dealt with 30 eviction cases. These included evictions, threats of evictions, increase in rent, sale of farm and dismissals. RCC members dealt with 67% of the cases, with little assistance from WFP. The cases that WFP dealt with directly were office walk-ins and telephonic enquiries.

The most shocking case was that of Florina Fillies and her family who had to spend two weeks on side of the road after being "legally" evicted. The Fillies family was legally evicted from Salomonsvlei farm in Paarl on 26 September. Their belongings were placed on the side of the road because no alternative accommodation was provided by the Municipality. WFP spent the day trying to force the municipality to provide alternative accommodation, to no avail. At the same time, the RCC protested outside the farm. After long negotiations, the farmer agreed to store their belongings. He also offered to pay for a night's accommodation at a low cost hostel. The family opted to sleep on the side of the road until they were offered permanent accommodation. WFP reported the matter to the Human Rights Commission who subsequently did an investigation. WFP and women from the various structures occupied the Drakenstein Municipal offices on 10 October as part of our World Food Day and Rural Women's Day campaign. After the protest and engagement with the Municipal Manager, the family was relocated to a temporary house in an informal settlement.

Veronica Motamane, who lives on Elsenburg, a state-owned farm, reported that the farm administration refused to reconnect her water. She was told they had no obligation to reconnect the water as her father, who had worked for the state, had died two years ago. WFP contacted the farm's administration and explained that the remaining family members have a right to water and if there are problems with their tenure, the correct legal procedure needs to be followed. The water was reconnected.

Marie May and Dalene Sauls are single mothers living on Etsheweleni farm in Devon Valley. They were retrenched after working on the farm for 20 years. After their retrenchments, the farmer requested exorbitant rent from them. The retrenchment agreement contains no rent

agreement. We advised them that they might need to pay a reasonable amount for rent, but if the amount requested by the farmer is higher than they can afford, we can approach the rental housing board to mediate. Legally, the rent cannot be increased by more than 10% annually and the farmer can therefore not increase the rent from zero to thousands. The women will inform our office if they need further assistance.

RCC members intervened in a number of dismissals on the following farms in Rawsonville: Breeland, Orleans, Tweeriviere, Serwida and Gordynplaas. In some of the cases, they were successful, but in other cases the farmers refused to reinstate the workers. Workers were advised to report the cases to the Labour Department for referral to the Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA). The RCC dealt with dismissals because an eviction normally follows a dismissal. On Tweeriviere, a farm worker was assaulted after the farmer accused him of threatened assault; he was dismissed and fears eviction. WFP referred him to the Labour Department to pursue a case of unfair dismissal. Khadaffi and Soppie, both on Orleans farm, were threatened with eviction after being dismissed. RCC members advised them not to leave the farm unless due legal procedure was followed.

Jan and Johanna Armoed were dismissed. WFP met with the farmer. Although unsuccessful in its request to reinstate the couple, WFP convinced the couple to ignore letters forcing them to vacate the house at the end of April. The proper eviction procedure was explained to them and they were given a pamphlet that explained the process.

WFP heard of the dismissal of Flip and Mina van Wyks two months after it happened. They approached an RCC member only after their furniture was removed and placed in a storeroom on a neighbouring farm where Mina's mother lived. WFP and RCC members met with the farmer's hostile wife who refused to allow them back onto the farm. She did, however, agree to pay their withheld leave money. Florina Karelse of RCC referred the illegal eviction matter to the DRDLR.

Mina Noble was legally evicted in 2010 from a farm in Wolesley. Since then she has been living with her brother on Tap Stanford's farm in the same area. The farmer has verbally threatened her with eviction. WFP informed her that the farmer will have to follow the necessary court procedure to obtain a legal eviction order. She was advised to remain in the house and seek legal assistance as soon as the formal process starts.

Mina Groenberg of Morderdrift farm in De Doorns was dismissed during the farm worker strike. The farmer is forcing her to move to a much smaller house. Failure to do so will result in her son losing his employment. The farmer refuses to engage with WFP. WFP advised the family to remain in the house since a family member is still working on the farm.

On Wolwenberg farm, a widow with long-term tenure security, was threatened by the new owner. After refusing to leave the farm, he removed her pre-paid electricity box from the house. She first sought assistance from the Legal Aid Clinic. They negotiated with the farmer and he agreed to replace the box if she paid R2500. She felt that this was unfair, because he was the one who removed the box. She then approached the RCC to assist in the matter. RCC followed up with Legal Aid Clinic and also reported the matter to the DRDLR. They await the outcome of their interventions.

Fanie Isaacs of Rooinekkies was illegally evicted after his dismissal. The RCC approached the farmer and he agreed that the family could move back onto the farm.

A farmwoman, Linda Norman, who has attended land rights training, assisted with two cases in Wolesley. She advised a young man on Platvlei farm not to leave the farm after being threatened with eviction.. A couple from Tulbagh also approached her for assistance after the farmer forced the husband to sign an agreement stating that they will vacate their house. She called the farmer to say that he needs a court order to evict them. The couple received no further threats to vacate the house.

NORTHERN CAPE PROGRAMME

It should be noted that the Programme did not have dedicated programme funding; this has limited the activities of the programme.

1. Training & Capacity-building

Strategy & Campaign

On Saturday, 23 February, a strategy meeting was facilitated for 50 young women from farms from the Keimoes, Kanoneiland and Kakamas areas. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the barriers to schooling which they face, and translate these into an education engagement later in the year. The most common barriers included a shortage of teachers, a shortage of textbooks, a lack of access to computers, the availability of drugs in schools, teenage pregnancies and drop-outs. The girls were able to discuss the social implications of teenage pregnancies and drop-outs, especially the continued educational challenges that such young women face for the rest of their lives. Inevitably, they end up as seasonal farm workers and struggle to take care of their children. All the girls agreed that the cycle needs to be broken or else the poverty of young women farm workers in their communities will continue.

An issue about which the girls felt strongly was the way in which some teachers treat farm workers' children. They have no respect for them, speak harshly and exacerbate or lead to these children's feelings of low self-esteem. The children become scared to ask questions and participate in class. These teachers do not treat the "town children" in the same way.

Another growing concern was the use of drugs on school premises. While this is still a fairly new problem, increasing numbers of children are using drugs – on or off school grounds. School teachers seem unable to deal with the issue which is disruptive to other children in the school. Girls also reported that they often feel unsafe because children who use drugs are very unpredictable and prone to violent outbursts, which teachers seem unable to control. The girls all felt that there needs to be a concerted effort to combat drugs in schools involving teachers, police and parents.

Tunnel Training

From 12-15 March, one staff member attended an intensive training course on the concepts and processes of tunnel production. The first three days were spent on the theory of tunnel cultivation, including water quality and quantity requirements for tunnel farming; management of tunnels; marketing of products. The last day was practical training on tunnel maintenance which covered the preparation of the tunnel, the setting of water schedules and preparing of seedlings for tunnel cultivation. With the knowledge which she acquired, the staff member was able to return to the Northern Cape and share the information with the Nursery Cooperative who would set up a tunnel for tomato production.

In June, 15 women were trained and set up the tunnel structure in Warmsand. The practical and theoretical training enabled the women to plant 300 tomato plants. However, the black frost in September was so heavy that it also affected the plants in the tunnel. We used an

organic remedy, and some of the plants recovered. In November, the women were able to harvest tomatoes.

Financial Management)

In May and June, two workshops on Financial Management were facilitated for a total of 77 women from both the food gardens and cooperative from the Kanoneiland, Keimoes and Kakamas areas. The women were introduced to household & enterprise budgeting, managing debt, consumer rights, basic book-keeping, etc.

Drawing on examples from women's households and scenarios from the sale of surpluses from their food gardens, the training was practically-oriented. After the workshop, all the women have reported that they have been able to use the information to budget effectively in their households.

Ragel's Story

In the financial training is where we learned how to work with our finances. This training meant a lot to me, because I use it daily in my house. We were taught not to buy any furniture on credit anymore because of the high interest that these shops charge us; you end up twice or thrice the price. We also learned how to keep a record of our income and expenses. These days I use this method to make and keep a budget for my household and it has helped me and my family to change our lifestyle. Saving money has now become a part of our life.

Most significantly, they have been warned off entering risky credit transactions, which often results in the long-term indebtedness of large numbers of farm workers. Women have reported that they now have skills and knowledge that will ensure they do not enter any credit agreements without due consideration. They have new knowledge of their rights as consumers, which will ensure that they exercise those rights. From our work with farmwomen, WFP knows that women are often exploited by various suppliers and retailers (e.g. informal moneylenders). Women will now be able to assert their rights based on the knowledge they acquired during the financial training.

Nursery Set-up & Cultivation

Practical training on setting up nurseries and cultivation were facilitated in Loxtonvale and Brakboseiland with 20 women each. Following the training, three nursery structures are set up on 3 different farms (Warm sand, Loxtonvale and Brakboseiland). Through practical demonstrations, the women were shown different methods of growing seedlings until the stage when they are ready for transplanting. By the first week of November, women had cultivated and sold their own seedlings (onions and beetroot) in the community and also used them for planting in their food gardens.

Herb Cultivation

We engaged with Surplus People's Project (SPP) to facilitate training on the cultivation of different herbs, especially those which can be used for medicinal purposes. Twenty-nine farmwomen from 12 different farms participated in the training workshop, which included both theoretical and practical components.

Since the training, women have started growing herbs for the first time. They have also shared their knowledge on herb cultivation with other women in their communities. They are confident that they will be able to use the herbs for both medicinal and cooking purposes; any surpluses will be sold.

Learning Exchange on Seed Capturing

Two farmwomen from the Ceres food gardens and one staff member from the Western Cape office facilitated a two-day training workshop on seed capturing with 15 women from different farms in October. The two Ceres women were co-facilitators and practically demonstrated how to capture and dry different seeds, especially indigenous seeds.

The Northern Cape women greatly benefitted from the exchange because the Ceres women were able to answer their questions from actual experience of having food gardens themselves. On the other hand, the Northern Cape women could also share other tips with the Ceres women - for example, how to cultivate herbs.

Marketing & Book-keeping

In November, a refresher workshop on marketing and book-keeping was facilitated for women from the food gardens, nurseries and cooperative. Using actual information from their enterprises, the training centred on giving women practical examples to work through in order to demonstrate basic principles of income, expenditure, budgeting, costings, etc. in order to enable women to keep basic records of their production, consumption, sales and profits. One woman said: "We learned the importance of securing a market before harvesting." Another woman said: "I learned how important it is to lobby for markets, and to try and offer something that others don't have, like our herbs."

2. Overview of Food Gardens

In 2012, 25 food gardens were established on different farms from Kanoneiland to Kakamas. The food gardens have been a big motivator for women to share knowledge and skills with their neighbours. This led to the establishment of 25 additional food gardens in 2013. One woman, Johanna Louw, from Malanshoek, was able to produce enough vegetables for both household consumption and the sale. From the sale of the surplus, she bought two pigs, which multiplied to 15. She sold five, and was able to buy food and school clothes for her children. The women in Brakbos-eiland harvested spinach, carrots, beetroot, onions, butternuts, pumpkin, sweet corn and tomatoes. The women have frozen the butternuts and pumpkin, which they will eat in winter.

In May 2013, three additional community food gardens were established – two in Lennertsville - an informal settlement, and one in Warmsand – involving a total of 25 women. A total of seven communal food gardens have been established to date.

In September, black frost destroyed 80% of the commercial vineyards in the Northern Cape which grow table grapes for the export market. Most of the women seasonal workers were adversely affected because there was less seasonal work as harvests were much smaller. In October, a group of nine women from Loxtonvale, Kamp 7, approached WFP for assistance to start a communal food garden. They had approached a farmer who allowed them to use a piece of unused land. He also gave them fencing, gates and manure; another farmer gave his tractor to the women to plough the field for planting. The only challenge is access to water. However, the women are so committed and positive that they walk 5km to the river to fetch water in 5 litre cans (about 25 at a time) in 40 degree heat to water their garden.

3. Campaigns

Education “Speak Out”

On Wednesday, 10 April, WFP hosted a “Speak Out” with 80 young women from the Keimoes, Kanoneiland and Kakamas areas at Kalahari Waters. WFP invited the Head of Education, GCIS and other stakeholders to the “Speak Out” so that women could voice the barriers to education of farm workers’ children. The girls had developed posters which highlighted their concerns:

- Are these Schools or Maternity Wards?
- Drugs Destroy Young People’s Lives!
- Down with Teenage Pregnancy!

Learners from various schools provided testimonies on how WFP had made a difference in their lives by providing them with various trainings and information, especially about their rights. They recommended that the Department of Education work with WFP to improve the educational opportunities of farm worker children. The District Manager of Education was impressed with the work WFP is doing on farms.

World Food Day

With other partners in the Regional Network, WFP convened an event for 200 farm workers in Loxtonvale; 50 learners from the local school also participated in the event. Women involved in the tunnel, food gardens and nurseries all shared practical information on lessons they had learned through their involvement on the projects. They also spoke of the impact of the projects – these included enhanced skills, improved household food security and income, greater self-confidence and leadership, sharing of skills and vegetables with neighbours. Women displayed their fresh vegetables (spinach, onions, butternuts, carrots, pumpkin, squashes, beetroot, tomatoes, cabbages) at the event. KOOR (Katolieke Ontwikkeling Oranjerivier) did a practical demonstration on double-decker planting and making compost.

16 Days of Activism

Since there were no dedicated funds to mark 16 Days, activities were limited to the distribution of pamphlets on 15 different farms around Keimoes, as well as in Keimoes town, to target seasonal workers coming into town for shopping.